

THE RED CROSS IN WAR

WOMAN'S PART IN THE RELIEF OF
SUFFERING

BY

MARY FRANCES BILLINGTON

AUTHOR OF "WOMAN IN INDIA"

SOUTH COLLEGE
LIBRARY

HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

MCMXIV

YELLING HIRE
VOLUME

CONTENTS

THE WOMAN'S ATTITUDE - - -	PAGE 7
EVOLUTION OF MILITARY NURSING -	14
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILI- TARY NURSING SERVICE - -	23
RED CROSS ORGANIZATION - - -	42
THE TERRITORIAL HOSPITALS - -	95
NURSING FOR THE NAVY - - -	104
HELP OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CORPS - - - - -	124
IN THE WARDS - - - - -	132
" R.R.C." - - - - -	151
HOW WOMEN WORKED - - -	160

53428

361-R24 Z5

53428

THE RED CROSS IN WAR

THE WOMAN'S ATTITUDE

" With aching hands and bleeding feet,
We dig and heap, lay stone on stone ;
We bear the burden and the heat
Of the long day, and wish 'twere done
Not till the hours of light return,
All we have built do we discern."

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

WAR, to the average woman, brings a sense of utter impotence. It alters the proportion and perspective of everything she has regarded as important. She has to assume new attitudes towards her whole domestic interests ; she is confronted with problems that touch her own existence, her own immediate circle at every point. The women of other countries, as France

8 The Red Cross in War

and Germany in 1870, as Russia and Turkey in 1877, have been called upon to face all the dislocation of national and social life, with the enemies at their very doors.

But in this country we have not known in this generation what it means to be fighting for our very existence as an independent Empire. Only the oldest among us remember the wretchedness and misery to which the men of the fighting line went in the Crimea, or the awful sickening sense of horror with which news was awaited during the black days of the Indian Mutiny. South Africa was too far away to bring home the realization of what was meant, and it came moreover at a time when material luxury and a strange wave of irresponsible pleasure-seeking seemed the dominant influences of many sections. It needed indeed the chastening of Colenso

The Woman's Attitude 9

and Magersfontein to convince not a few that the hostilities were something more than a huge picnic with some exciting military exercises thrown in.

Since those days, however, women have come to take themselves and their position in the scheme of things much more seriously. They have claimed, though not as successfully as some of them had hoped so far, their equal share in determining the affairs of the State ; they have come to do the most admirable public work in the larger municipal field ; they are filling high positions in the medical profession ; journalism has welcomed their pens ; the wise and sympathetic woman inspector of factories has made the way smoother for her toiling sisters ; and a host of useful vocations have been developed by them.

Yet once again in the world's story has war thrown the nations back upon the

10 The Red Cross in War

elemental laws. All the primary instincts of savagery are awakened in the man; the woman realizes that hers is the same part again as that of the mother of Sisera looking out of her lattice and crying, "Why tarry the wheels of his chariot?"

That, however, the woman of to-day does not consent to admit. And a few there are, thanks to the opening up of that noblest of all professions—that of nursing—to whom it does not apply. The trained nurse calmly competent in her work of mercy has her very definite place at the rear of every army corps. In this war, with its appalling totals of the wounded, the nursing must be a factor of enormous consequence, and let it be said that it is due to far-seeing women that the whole service, from that of the sick bay in any one of the fighting ships onward to the last

days of convalescence, has a clear system underlying it.

That this fact is far from generally understood is shown by the eager rush of kindly intentioned young ladies to volunteer to be what they are pleased to call "war nurses." There is not a hospital matron who cannot tell of applications from such women for "just a month's training, and then I am sure I should know all about nursing." Equally the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association were inundated with offers of utterly untaught service. It is when she grasps for the first time that there is no place in a well-ordered scheme for the mere amateur, however well-meaning, that there comes to the more thoughtfully patriotic woman a perception of some of the eternal truths as to the spheres in which the actions of each sex

12 The Red Cross in War

must inevitably lie in the ultimate strain of national strife.

Red Cross work has robbed modern warfare of some of the most terrible features of the past. If the death-dealing machine gun and the bursting shell send out destruction and the means of mortal injury more rapidly and over a wider area than armies face to face have met before, each campaign since Austria and Italy with Prussia made war has seen advance in the more humane treatment of the fighting men. It was in fact the awful aftermath of Solferino that set Henri Dunant forth upon his mission of mitigating the fearful sufferings of war. He himself always regarded Florence Nightingale as the inspirer of his ardent desire to reduce the agony of the individual and bring humane relief to them. How he brought about the Geneva Convention in 1865, which made the Red Cross

The Woman's Attitude 13

the emblem of mercy the world over, is history to-day. But the extent to which it has been organized, especially among ourselves and our splendid Allies, is less well known. In the days of peace women have prepared themselves for the demands of war. When these came suddenly in the sunshine of early days of August, they were ready, and the promptitude with which they came forth to meet the sternest task that has ever been set them is a noble chapter in the annals of progress.

EVOLUTION OF MILITARY NURSING

—“ The streaming, straining wagons
And the faces of the Sisters as they bore the wounded
in.
Till the pain was merciful and stunned us into
silence—
When each nerve cried on God that made the
misused clay,
When the Body triumphed and the last poor shame
departed—
These abode our agonies and wiped the sweat
away.”

RUDYARD KIPLING.

AN orthodox survey of the development of the care of the wounded in war would begin with a summarized history of Florence Nightingale's work in the hospitals of the Crimea. Her own biography has appeared however, so recently, and the outlines of the work she achieved are so integrally a part of every girl's essay writing at school, that it is sufficient here to mention that

Evolution of Military Nursing 15

hers was the spirit which created Netley, and from thence the present system made its beginning.

Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of Netley in May, 1856, and on it is recorded that the hospital was "intended for the reception of the sick and disabled soldiers of her Army." The actual first women nurses employed in a military hospital were at Chatham, but they were not there for long, and were soon transferred to Netley, whose first Superintendent was Mrs. Shaw-Stewart. She had been one of Miss Nightingale's chief assistants in the Crimea, who placed it on record that "Without her our Crimean work would have come to grief—without her judgment, her devotion, her unselfish consistent looking to the one great end, namely, the carrying out of the work as a whole." She took up the appointment in 1861, remaining there

16 The Red Cross in War

till 1869, and unquestionably she left a tradition of fine ideals that the army nursing service has well maintained.

Her immediate successor was Mrs. Deeble, who brought in a staff from St. Thomas's Hospital, which included one lady who had been far up the Zambesi when Livingstone was a missionary first and an explorer afterwards. Mrs. Deeble, a charming and clever woman, can claim one proud distinction in her record of service. For she was the first woman to take a contingent of nurses actually to the base of active operations against a savage enemy. With some twenty more she was in charge of the nursing arrangements in the Zulu war of 1879, when the hospital had its place on the bank of Olifants River. The wisdom of sending women out under such conditions was somewhat severely criticized at the time, but so successful was their work

Evolution of Military Nursing 17

that, in 1882, Mrs. Deeble and another contingent were sent out for the first Egyptian Campaign.

Since then, as the roll of the decoration of the Royal Red Cross testifies abundantly, they have borne their part in all the " Little wars " and the great campaigns that have taken place. Perhaps some glamour of romance has come to them from the fact that this country has a habit of accepting the sentimental picture as a faithful representation of things; and most people, the romantic girl in particular, fully believes that the army nurse performs deeds entitling her to the Victoria Cross at least, in pursuing her work of mercy on the battle field under bursting shells and dropping bullets. Even South Africa has not dispelled that illusion entirely.

But we learnt a great deal from South Africa, especially as to being prepared

18 The Red Cross in War

beforehand for any exigencies that might arise. None saw more clearly than the Princess Christian, herself a keen student of all that pertains to nursing, that the Army Service as it was about 1898, numbering some eighty members, would be quite unable to cope with the strain of war on a vast or protracted scale. To her foresight is due the idea of forming a Reserve of Army Nurses. A large number of nurses were registered, all having most excellent qualifications and certificates, and when the call came by which, as one after another of the Army sisters and staff nurses were sent to Natal or Cape Colony, the reservists were ready to step into their places in the military hospitals of this country. Up to that point all expectations as to the system were realized. Where it proved less satisfactory was, as more and more nurses had to be sent out, that some

Evolution of Military Nursing 19

of the reservists were hardly equal to the responsibilities thrust upon them under conditions so entirely different to any they had known before. That was only one of many points that experience alone could demonstrate.

South Africa saw, in fact, the passing of the old and the coming of the new into military nursing. Out of much chaos, much overlapping of effort, much trial due to the useless amateur "angel of pity" who wanted to hover round the general hospitals, there loomed out two great principles. One was that of the need for a larger, more efficient army service, in view of the enormous importance of the training of the orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The other was that if full use were to be made of the kindly, spontaneous but often misdirected efforts of those who want to be of use, there would

20 The Red Cross in War

have to be some working plan, thought out and perfected in the calm of peaceful days to render it of practical utility in the stress and strain of a great war.

It was a widened view too that South Africa gave us of the many directions in which the care of the wounded and sick of a vast army in the modern field of war requires. Never before had it occurred to us as a people that the Hospital Ship was a necessity. Two were officially fitted out. They were liners, not of high speed but roomy and steady, with no great elaboration as to their equipment, and they served their purpose sufficiently well. But they could not compare with the *Princess of Wales*—the converted pleasure cruiser for which Queen Alexandra provided the whole interior fitments with every consideration for the comfort of the more sorely serious cases. Even that again was surpassed in

Evolution of Military Nursing 21

some details by the *Maine*, which was the truly gracious and significant gift of American women, and this offered every appliance that science could suggest in connection with a floating hospital. Princess Christian showed how perfect a hospital train could be made, when builders, doctors and nurses collaborated in happy accord. To-day, the motor ambulance marks yet another stage of the evolution of transport of the wounded. Numbers of cars for the conveyance of two to eight patients have been built in this country and sent out in connection with the hospitals provided by the Red Cross Society or private generosity. With these it has been possible to remove all cases with much greater ease from the field to the base hospitals than when, as in South Africa, there was the unavoidable delay before a train was made up.

In the sixty years that have passed since

20 The Red Cross in War

have to be some working plan, thought out and perfected in the calm of peaceful days to render it of practical utility in the stress and strain of a great war.

It was a widened view too that South Africa gave us of the many directions in which the care of the wounded and sick of a vast army in the modern field of war requires. Never before had it occurred to us as a people that the Hospital Ship was a necessity. Two were officially fitted out. They were liners, not of high speed but roomy and steady, with no great elaboration as to their equipment, and they served their purpose sufficiently well. But they could not compare with the *Princess of Wales*—the converted pleasure cruiser for which Queen Alexandra provided the whole interior fitments with every consideration for the comfort of the more sorely serious cases. Even that again was surpassed in

Evolution of Military Nursing 21

some details by the *Maine*, which was the truly gracious and significant gift of American women, and this offered every appliance that science could suggest in connection with a floating hospital. Princess Christian showed how perfect a hospital train could be made, when builders, doctors and nurses collaborated in happy accord. To-day, the motor ambulance marks yet another stage of the evolution of transport of the wounded. Numbers of cars for the conveyance of two to eight patients have been built in this country and sent out in connection with the hospitals provided by the Red Cross Society or private generosity. With these it has been possible to remove all cases with much greater ease from the field to the base hospitals than when, as in South Africa, there was the unavoidable delay before a train was made up.

In the sixty years that have passed since

22 The Red Cross in War

order and method were taken by some thirty pioneer English women into the barracks at Scutari, with their hundreds of men, fever stricken, with wounds undressed, and in a state of next to starvation, to the present system—swift, humane, gentle as the modern surgeon, aided by the modern nurse, can make it—a phase of evolution has taken place, splendid and inspiring to all women, and setting up a standard of devotion and great deeds that will place before every girl new ideals of work and service.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE

" SUB CRUCE CANDIDA "

To Queen Alexandra the nursing profession owes much. Her Majesty's interest in it has ever been of practical character, and one of her first acts after the accession of King Edward was to place herself at the head of a small committee who should entirely reorganize the military nursing system in the light of the experience gained in South Africa. To this Queen Alexandra nominated Countess Roberts, Viscount Knutsford and Viscountess Downe, while the representatives of training schools of nursing were Miss Cave and Miss Monk,

24 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was the title it received.

The first step to take was to give a greater status and dignity to nursing as a department of its own co-ordinating with the Royal Army Medical Corps. This was done by the creation of the rank of Matron-in-Chief, who would be responsible to the Director-General of this Corps for all that pertained to nursing in the military hospitals. She was assigned her own rooms at the War Office, thus recognizing her importance as an officer of the service. A lady with the rank of Principal Matron was to assist her in such directions as were laid down, and she was given an adequate staff for correspondence and all the details that would arise. Thus the reconstituted service came into existence in April, 1902.

The first Matron-in-Chief was Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C. It was a singularly happy

Military Nursing Service 25

selection, and as it is to her also that the nation owes the working out in detail of the scheme of Territorial Nursing that will bear its own big part in the present crisis, some particulars of a strong and striking personality may fittingly be given here.

Miss Browne's first training was in one of the big provincial hospitals, and she was for a time a staff nurse at St. Bartholomew's. From that she went into the Army Service and was one of a notable little party of ladies at Suakim in 1884-5, when the hospitals were sufficiently near the fighting zone to be in constant danger of rushes by fanatical dervishes. After that followed a long round as superintendent of nurses at Woolwich, the Curragh, the Herbert Hospital and the Connaught Hospital, Aldershot, always with a record of valuable work. On the outbreak of the war in South Africa she was one of the

26 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

first to be called upon for service at the front, and she had charge in succession of General Hospitals III. and XII. King Edward conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon her, and her medals include those for Egypt, with the Khedive's Star, the two for South Africa, and the Coronation medal.

After the preliminary setting of all into working order, Miss Browne soon showed herself possessed of initiative and independence. When she wanted a new matron for the Herbert Hospital she did not hesitate to go to a civilian source to secure the right woman to carry out her ideas. She kept steady improvement in the standard of nursing in view and secured important additions to pay in order to obtain the best type of women. The course of training of the hospital orderlies was entirely revised by her, for she had

Military Nursing Service 27

realized their importance as the real "first aiders" at the dressing stations even while a great action is being fought. When she took up her work at the War Office, she found a service of eighty-seven members. When she left it there were about 250. And what was more, she went out leaving a fine standard of efficiency throughout, and high traditions to be maintained.

Her successor was Miss C. H. Keer, R.R.C., a Canadian by birth, who received a good deal of her training in American hospitals. Again was the office well filled, and numerically increased as the hospitals on Salisbury Plain were then coming into being.

At present the Matron-in-Chief is Miss Becher, R.R.C. Upon her has devolved all the immediate organization of the nursing now required. It can be said, on the authority of Sir Frederick Treves, that never before has the nation possessed

28 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

a service as efficient as this is, or one with a nobler spirit of duty and devotion running through it.

At the outset of the war it numbered some thirty matrons, 105 sisters and about 150 staff nurses. To enter it, a nurse must bring a three years' certificate of training from a recognized school of nursing. She must be between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age and single or a widow. She must be able to satisfy the matron-in-chief as to her general education and her social position, this latter being important from the fact that she will fill almost from the first a position of command. Supposing her to be duly qualified in all respects she sees herself duly gazetted to the Service, and for the first five years she will be sent to one or other of the Military Hospitals in this country or Ireland.

Her further experience will be gained in

Military Nursing Service 29

these establishments overseas, as at Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Cairo, Khartoum, or Hong Kong. The Indian nursing is a separate branch of the Service. A great variety thus comes into the work of an Army nurse, as she sees something of the types of fever and malaria of diverse climates, and their effects upon different temperaments.

Considering the responsibilities that are thrust upon sisters and staff nurses, the pay of the Service cannot be said to err on the side of over liberality. This is the official scale :

“ As regards pay and allowances, a staff nurse receives an initial salary of £40 a year, rising by annual increments of £2 10s. to a maximum of £45. She also has allowances for board, laundry, uniform, etc., which may bring her total salary up to £139 4s. 3d. (maximum

30 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

£144 4s. 3d.). A sister's initial salary is £50 a year, rising by annual increments to £65, or with allowances £149 4s. 3d. (maximum £164 4s. 6d.). A matron begins with £75 a year, rising by annual increments of £5 to £95, or with allowances £174 4s. 3d. (maximum £249 4s. 3d.) ; while a Principal Matron beginning with £175 rises to £205, or with allowances £292 19s. 3d. (maximum £322 19s. 3d.). The matron-in-chief has yearly increments of £15 and rises from £305 to £350 a year, or £457 10s. 10d. with allowances (maximum £502 10s. 10d.). One shilling a day for servants' allowances for all ranks is allowed if servants are not provided. Matrons in addition to their pay receive charge pay of not exceeding £30 per annum according to the size of the hospital. It must be understood

Military Nursing Service 31

that the figures given above in regard to allowances can only be taken as representing an Army nurse or matron's gross income, as her net income depends largely on circumstances, for example, whether her quarters are provided or she receives an allowance in lieu of quarters, and so forth. The matron-in-chief has an office at the War Office and draws all her allowances, as quarters are not provided for her."

Where, however, the Service offers a real advantage over the profession as followed in ordinary hospitals or in private nursing is in regard to retired pay or pensions.

To quote regulations again :

"A member may retire voluntarily after twenty years' service and is

32 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

compulsorily retired at the age of fifty-five.

The retired pay is calculated on the scale of pay (and charge pay if any) at the time of retirement, and is 30 per cent. of such pay after ten years' service, with an additional 2 per cent. for each year of service in excess of ten up to the maximum, which is 70 per cent.

For example, a Matron after twenty years' service receives a pension of £90 a year for life, if she is receiving charge pay of £30 per annum in addition to her pay at the time of retirement ; if she remains twenty-five years, she receives £108, or if she commences her army career at twenty-five and remains until she is fifty-five she receives £132 a year."

In time of peace, a primary duty of the

matrons, sisters, and nurses is the training of the orderlies. These men stand in much the same relation to the work done in the wards as the probationers and junior nurses of a civil establishment. There are definite standards to be achieved at various stages of their course of instruction, and those nurses who have seen what their work really is are best able to testify to its admirable efficiency.

Now no one has had much to say about the Royal Army Medical Corps orderly as an individual. He does not figure among Mr. Kipling's Service sketches. Even the name of "Poultice wallah" by which he is known to his comrades in arms would not be recognized by the outer world, which often confuses his blue and crimson uniform of peaceful days with that of the Royal Ordnance Corps.

But in war he stands as the first

34 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

connecting link between the firing line and the cot in hospital, where the women will be tending the wounded. Between, say, Mons and Netley there were various stages to be covered. Every regiment goes into the field with its stretcher bearers, usually estimated in the proportion of two to a company, and with the infantry of the line it often falls to its bandsmen to fulfil this duty. In any case, however, they have had instruction in first aid, they do not carry arms, and they wear a Red Cross armlet. Their commanding officer is the surgeon.

With them, the bearer sections of the field ambulance drawn from the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Army Service Corps work in conjunction, and are expected to collect the wounded whenever it is possible to go out and find them. How fearlessly they and the surgeons have

been doing their noble duty in the firing zone itself is shown by the fact that the very first list of wounded that was published contained the name of Captain E. H. Gibbon, while nine others of the Royal Army Medical Corps were reported as "missing." Since then, hardly a casualty list has appeared without the names of some of these heroic officers, showing how near they went to the firing lines in the execution of duty.

The dressing station is as near the fighting as is practicable, and such shelter as may be available is sought for it. Each man in theory has with him the means to allay bleeding and some antiseptic dressing, though this in the rapid movements of a hot engagement may well have got lost. Still some sort of immediate help will be given if he is brought in, though early accounts indicate that in Belgium some of

36 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

the wounded remained untended for many hours on the field, and that the enemy did not hesitate to kill them if they found them still living.

How the actual mobilization was effected has been clearly told by a nurse of the Army Reserve, who was told to report herself on August 22nd at the Grand Hotel, Northumberland Avenue. Beside her clothes and uniform she had to come provided with the same camp equipment as that of the Imperial Service, consisting of a folding bedstead, chair and washstand and basin, and a rubber bath and bucket. A mackintosh sheet, a cushion and a pillow must be provided, together with soap, towels, a thermos flask, and the cups and infuser for tea.

Altogether over forty nurses, some of the Regular Service, some of the Reserve and others specially selected by the Red

Military Nursing Service 37

Cross Society, met: and to take command was a Matron of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Service. They went to Woolwich after having duly reported themselves, where accommodation was found for them at the Herbert Hospital, and early next morning went to Southampton to embark for an unknown destination on one of the transports.

Arrived at the port of Western France for which they found themselves bound, there was a few days, delay before the hospital to which they were attached was complete. Ultimately, when made up, it consisted of twenty-one surgeons, forty-four sisters and nurses, and 120 orderlies. This was at the time that the Germans were coming within sight of Paris, and hasty changes of base had to be rapidly effected. Altogether something like 300 nurses and sisters from no less than seven hospitals

38 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

had to be transferred, enduring it may be said their full share of the discomforts of delay, and the difficulty of getting even the simplest fare at the railway buffets. Arrived at their base, some of the nurses were attached to the hospitals at the coast ports, while a few were placed on the hospital ships to take charge of the wounded being sent home to England.

Wherever it was possible the wounded were moved as quickly as could be to the field hospitals. These are mobile and should move with the Army Corps to which they belong. As a rule they are calculated for 100 beds, and it may be recalled that in South Africa it was at this stage that some of the worst overcrowding and delay occurred.

The General Hospitals are the next stage, and the hospital trains have hitherto been the means of connection. In France,

however, a far greater use of motor cars has been made than has ever been the case before. Even the motor omnibus was converted into an ambulance carriage and conveyed numbers to Amiens where was a large base hospital. Havre became the base of communications with the British shores, and, with the hospital ships and other transports available, the plan was pursued of sending the wounded as rapidly as possible to the military or Territorial General Hospitals. In no war have the several stages from the dressing station to the quiet wards with all that women's gentle ministrations could offer been so expeditiously covered as in these recent weeks. The British Red Cross Society was able to supplement the military service by rest stations both on embarkation and landing, at which there was opportunity for some repose after the fatigues of the

40 Queen Alexandra's Imperial

rail or motor journey or the voyage, and beef tea, milk and other comforts of the kind were prepared for the refreshment of the sufferers.

Then, still working on a definite plan, officers and men went to Netley or Aldershot, Woolwich or London as circumstances decided. As at the base hospitals through which they have passed are the matrons, sisters and nurses of the Imperial Service, quiet in their competence, gentle in their skill, already well accustomed to take command and control under the doctors and surgeons. The plain grey uniform is honoured and respected by all ranks, not only because to the men it marks the nurses as officers, but for all that it stands for. In the field the men have followed their officers into actions of daring, audacious to recklessness, winning for battery, troop, company and regiment newer and

Military Nursing Service 41

prouder distinctions than ever. Here in the softly lighted ward, they realize that the sisters are waging on their behalf an equal struggle against the foes unseen. Perhaps only the true nurse knows the sense of supreme triumph when she has conquered them. To express in a single phrase the finely chosen motto of the Service is difficult, but it is made plain in the deeds which are done in memory of the Cross, white in purity and glowing with the Divine fervour for the relief of pain and suffering.

RED CROSS ORGANIZATION

"The Society shall be entirely voluntary, and, while in touch with the War Office and Admiralty, the Society shall be organized and act independently of those departments in time of peace ; but, naturally, in time of war it must be under naval and military control. I therefore now appeal to all the women of the Empire to assist me in carrying out this great scheme which is essentially a woman's work, and which is the only way we can assist our brave and gallant Army and Navy to perform their arduous duties in time of war."—QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

It is to the Geneva Convention of 1865 that the initial idea of humane care of the wounded on the field should be lifted above hostilities, and that the sign of the Red Cross should save man or woman, camp, ship, wagon or train from the shell and bullets of the enemy. In civilized warfare it has always been respected, and the few occasions when this honorable agreement has not been observed in the past have

always drawn down the execrations of the neutral nations.¹

To Germany it has remained to flout the solemn and binding understanding, and they have used the emblem of mercy and pity to mask murderous quick-firing guns, knowing that English, French, Belgian and Russian would never suspect such treachery, and would fearlessly approach the flag or the vehicles displaying it.

Yet Germany in 1870 owed much—very much—to British help brought her under that sign. When the first awful stories came home after Gravelotte and Sedan of the neglected wounded and dying on the field, common humanity demanded that something should be done. The late Lord Wantage, then Colonel Loyd Lindsay, called the first English Red Cross Society into existence, as the National Society for

44 The Red Cross in War

the relief of the wounded in war. It raised a sum of over £300,000, and the Office of Works placed at its disposal some houses to which the bounteous gifts of clothing, medical comforts and hospital equipment could be sent. It had a committee of ladies of which the Princess Christian filled the chair, while the members undertook the sorting, classifying and packing.

The committee of men dealt with the selection of the doctors and store keepers, and endeavoured to cope with the real problems of transport and the placing of depôts so as to be of value in constantly mobile operations. Eventually a system of districts was adopted, one of these being along the Rhine from Strasburg, Baden, Cologne and Coblentz. Another area was along the Moselle and the Meuse. In France depôts were placed in the towns

between Lille and Amiens on the north-west and Rouen, Orleans and Tours on the north-east. Sums of £20,000 each were early remitted to Paris and Versailles.

The need for help was appalling, and it appealed to the best surgeons of the day. Among those who did brilliant work there was Sir William McCormack, afterwards Surgeon-General to the Army, and others whose fame is yet remembered. How they overcame every imaginable difficulty lives in the annals of British surgery and has been an inspiration to all war work since.

At that time Germany possessed of course its famous Deaconess's House at Kaiserwerth, where Florence Nightingale had received her own training in the early 'fifties. But that was not enough, and the Crown Princess, the Empress Frederick of later years, turned to her own country, where the movement for the training of

46 The Red Cross in War

educated ladies for the nursing profession had begun to take definite shape in the opening of the school at St. Thomas's Hospital. Feminine imagination was awakened, and all were eager to be "war nurses." The most incompetent amateurs then, even as to-day, thought that a few weeks in a hospital ward and their own boundless enthusiasm would suffice. Happily they did not achieve their desires, but in the nursing of the Franco-German war there stands out one great figure who, though her name is rarely heard, has done more for the care of the poor and friendless in illness than anyone now living. This is Mrs. Dacre Craven, wife of the vicar of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and it is permissible to quote what is said of her in the exhaustive history of nursing by Miss Adelaide Nutting and Miss Lavinia Dock. After reference to her as a pioneer "whose chief distinction

was in improving the district nursing service," Florence Lees (as she then was) was "one of the first four pupils who entered the Nightingale School. She has been called the most highly trained nurse of her day, and probably was so. After training at St. Thomas's, she had post graduate courses at Berlin, Dresden, and Kaiserwerth, was surgical sister in King's College Hospital, then made a tour of inspection through the hospitals of Holland and Denmark. She was then able to gain entrance for training in the Hotel-Dieu Laboisière and Infant Jesus Hospitals of Paris, and later served under the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in two military hospitals where she was allowed to pass through every department from the kitchens and linen rooms to the operating theatre."

In the Franco-German War she had the

48 The Red Cross in War

charge of a military hospital before Metz and of the ambulance supported by the Crown Princess. Her work received the highest commendation and she received for it the notable distinction in those days of the Iron Cross.

Perhaps it is not doing the British Red Cross organisation any grave injustice to say that it remained more or less dormant in the years that followed. A little help in the Russo-Turkish War, and the same in the Graeco-Turkish War it rendered, but the principle it represented had won acceptance. Even before the South African War it was recognized that it could be the most valuable adjunct to an army in the field, and the Marquis of Lansdowne when at the War Office called together a Central Red Cross Committee, on which also was represented the St. John Ambulance Association and the Nursing Reserve Association.

As an outcome of that, the regular Army medical and nursing services were augmented by special hospitals, several of which did notably good service in South Africa, as the Duke of Portland's Hospital, the Yeomanry Hospital, whose voluminous report at the end of the war was a really valuable record down to the minutest details of the actual working of such an effort, and the Welsh and Scottish Hospitals. Then the St. John Ambulance men proved of the utmost courage and resourcefulness as bearers and attendants at the dressing stations.

In fact, so good was the work that after the war it appeared desirable to place it on a yet stronger basis. Queen Alexandra placed herself at the head of the movement in 1903. A new council was formed, and among the ladies then appointed and still on it are Adeline Duchess of Bedford, the

50 The Red Cross in War

Marchioness of Londonderry, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Countess of Derby, Countess Roberts, Georgiana Countess of Dudley, Lady Wantage, Lady Fisher and Miss Ethel McCaul. It was when presiding at the first meeting that Queen Alexandra made one of the few speeches of her life, and it concluded with the quotation that heads this chapter.

The appointment of Miss McCaul to this Council had an important result, inasmuch as a few months later she went on a special mission with Queen Alexandra's approval and commendation to the Empress of Japan to study the Red Cross methods of that marvellously equipped army that stood up to Russia in 1904, and many of the lessons then learnt are influencing the work going on to-day.

In regard to the Japanese system it can only be said that the Army Medical

Service and the Red Cross are so closely interwoven as to be indistinguishable. Each supports the other at every point. On the outbreak of that war, the Red Cross Society's Hospital was in the privileged position of being alone permitted to supply the Army with nurses. It was ready to do so. It had built up a reserve of no fewer than 3,000 members. "Implicit obedience," says Miss McCaul, "plays as great a part in their training as the actual learning of nursing. Their gentleness of manner and soft voices are not their only recommendation, their intelligence and quickness are unmistakable. Added to these qualifications, they have the most perfect little hands and delicate touch."

But further, Miss McCaul found that the great ladies of the country were preparing themselves to render useful aid. At the famous Peeresses School she found all

52 The Red Cross in War

the pupils under regular instruction in "Benevolent work," which means stretcher drill, first aid and bandage making. For the latter, a girl was given a long piece of calico, and in a stated time it had to be torn, rolled and finished for use. So admirably have Japanese women learnt this work that they supplied every bandage required in the war, and not a single bought or machine made one was used.

Then again, the Japanese system of choosing their nurses, who by the way have to pass two examinations—one as to constittutional fitness and one as to education—is excellent. Their training extends over three years, and after the examinations, if duly passed, they have the privilege of becoming Army nurses, for the military reserve hospitals. Equally in their training of male orderlies, who must be men of superior social class and good

education, a very high standard was set up.

All this is reflected in the system of training that has been encouraged by the British Red Cross Society in recent years. Steady preparation has been going on, women have formed their Voluntary Aid Detachments on lines to be complementary to that of men, and for the first time we have a centralised authority to make use of all nursing assistance as it is required for the two fields of service for which especially the Red Cross Society has accepted responsibility. One of these is the provision of supplemental aid for the sick and wounded in the field: the other is that of the hospitals of the Territorial Force, and to this latter another chapter must be devoted.

Two days after war was declared the appeal for help was made, and was signed

54 The Red Cross in War

by Queen Alexandra in her capacity of President. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire promptly offered the use of Devonshire House for the vast work that would be involved, and here Sir Frederick Treves, the Countess of Dudley and many more began their work on a systematic plan. Particular branches of the work were assigned to different people, and though at first there was naturally some confusion, order was soon evolved, and all began to run with perfect smoothness. Queen Amélie of Portugal was an early visitor, and was so much impressed at the magnitude of the labours involved that she offered her personal help wherever it could be most usefully employed, which proved to be in the onerous but necessary work of a checking clerk.

Lady Gifford who had nursed in South Africa, and has since been much associated

with hospital work with Mrs. Ludlow, R.R.C., who was matron of a hospital at Ladysmith and has since been matron of a large hospital in London, undertook the department of the selection of nurses. Both at the War Office and Admiralty, hundreds of nurses, good, bad and indifferent, offered themselves for service in the early weeks of the war, but one and all were referred to the Red Cross Society, where as many as fifty a day were interviewed by these two ladies. As a fact, they had the choice of the very best material, though the standard they set up was exceedingly high, and intentionally so, as there was rigid determination to keep out the amateur nurse, the mere sentimentalist or even the adventuress who sees possibilities at such times.

Nothing short of a three years' course of training at a recognized hospital was accepted, while further testimonials were

56 The Red Cross in War

also required. A register was formed, and as the necessities for hospital assistance began to declare themselves, the Society was ready to meet them in equipment and personnel. In the original scheme of operations in France it was intended to place a large base hospital at Rouen, and among the first to go out to make the necessary preliminary arrangements was Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh. Thanks to the generosity of a lady, there was also to be a rest station at Boulogne, where the wounded could spend a few hours after the fatigues and thirst and general weariness of a long train journey, even though made in ambulance carriages. But the determination to evacuate Boulogne as a base of supplies in favour of Havre made a considerable change in these plans. It was moved northwards using Cherbourg as its base, and Lord Brassey placed his yacht

Red Cross Organization 57

Sunbeam, very completely equipped, at its service.

The work done in Paris under British Red Cross auspices was of great value and supplemented admirably that of the French sister society. A description by the Paris correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, may be taken as typical of the methods adopted :

“ Amongst the numerous changes which the war has wrought upon the fair and vivacious countenance of Paris is the conversion of many of her most palatial hotels into temporary hospitals for the care of the wounded, and the utilisation of exclusive clubs and similar institutions as working centres, where ladies of all grades of society meet together to sew garments for those to whose doors the war has brought the spectre of want. Over some of the most fashionable quarters of the city

the Red Cross flag flies freely. Auxiliary hospitals seem to have cropped up everywhere, and, in their wake, these *ouvroirs*, or work-rooms.

“ Yesterday I paid a visit to the Hôtel Majestic, in the Avenue Kleber, up by the Place L’Etoile, where a splendidly-equipped English hospital has just been officially installed, under the supervision of Dr. Guest, a London medical practitioner, well known for the interest he takes in all matters concerning public hygiene. No wounded had yet come, but everything was in readiness to receive them—competent medical staff, trained nurses and energetic lay assistants or orderlies. As an hotel, the Majestic, like so many other establishments of the sort in Paris, closed its doors long ago. It looked not only closed, but

super-closed, as it were, inasmuch as most of its ground-floor windows were boarded up for the greater part of their height. This, as I afterwards learned, was designed to ensure greater privacy for the humane work to which the building has for the moment been dedicated.

“ IDEAL WARDS

“ Bearing in mind accounts which have reached me as to the rough-and-ready treatment which has perhaps inevitably fallen to the lot of the wounded in sections of the vast theatre of war, where the tide of battle has ebbed and flowed with bewildering rapidity, I could not but wonder how the wounded soldiers will feel when they find themselves under the care of the medical and nursing staffs attached to the Hôtel Majestic Hospital.

To stroll through the ample corridors and public rooms of the building is easily to imagine oneself in a Royal palace, whose occupants have suddenly vacated it. Palatial is the only word by which to describe its internal proportions and its decorative embellishment. A change this, truly, from the railway sheds and waiting-rooms where, by the pressure of sheer necessity, some of the wounded have hitherto received their first medical attention. That, parenthetically, is a subject on which I might say more, but, for obvious reasons, I forbear.

“ As Dr. Guest observed, in showing me round, the spacious, airy public rooms of the Hôtel Majestic make quite ideal wards. At the present moment the number of beds installed is fifty, divided about equally between

two of the main apartments on the ground floor ; but the accommodation which the huge building could afford is almost infinite. To survey these two rooms, with their neatly-appointed beds, is like taking a peep at the show wards of some great public hospital over in England—something which the King and Queen might be invited to inspect in the course of a Royal visit to one of our large cities. Everything is spotlessly white and scientifically ordered.

“ THE OPERATING THEATRE

“ And the operating theatre which has been established in what was the ladies' cloak-room of the hotel, is something to admire. If it had been specially designed for its present purpose it could not have been more adaptable to the surgeon's requirements.

A fully-equipped 'X'-ray apparatus has also been installed. How different from the goods shed of which someone has told me, where the operating table consisted of a stretcher supported on a couple of trestles ! And talk of medical stores ! Dr. Guest brought over with him something like a couple of tons of these.

“ Although at the time of my visit no wounded had yet arrived at the Hôtel Majestic, the doctors and nurses have already, in certain portions of the war area which I may not name, been brought face to face with war's carnage, and have rendered sorely-needed service to wounded soldiers, both German and French. And let me say here, that these English nurses have been tremendously impressed by the German soldiers. Said one of these ladies to

me yesterday : ' The German soldiers I have tended are fine fellows—splendid men physically, so simple in their manners, and, oh ! so grateful for any kindness you render them. Remembering these men, I find it extremely difficult to believe that they could be guilty of the atrocities that have been attributed to them.' And her companions, in whose presence she thus spoke to me, fully bore out her views. The impressions of these nurses were derived absolutely at first hand, under circumstances calculated to bring out the real man in their individual patients, and that is why I here set them down."

Admirably organized is the French Rouge Croix work, and its estimated resources are about £1,000,000. It is tending our own wounded wherever occasion arises, and all medical men who have seen it at work

64 The Red Cross in War

are loud in its praise. Some official particulars tell of the immense amount of preliminary preparation that was carried through in co-ordinating the many offers of help in various forms that were received for the equipment of hospitals and ambulances, and in increasing the efficiency and personnel of the three associations which it unites. The oldest of these, the *Société Française de Secours aux Blessés Militaires*, possesses 10,000 nurses. Bands of trained nurses have been sent out wherever they could be usefully employed, and their ministrations were afforded not only to the Allies, but to the enemy on many occasions.

A party of ten nurses left on the 9th for Belgium at the request of the Comtesse de Merode, president of the Belgian Croix Rouge. Though the society only employs the nurses who have gained their diploma

after a regular training course of some months, it has arranged three courses of elementary instructions to respond to the great demand among the women who wish to take their share of caring for their wounded.

Next comes the exceedingly efficient and well-directed Union des Femmes de France. The French woman with her admirable capacity for detail has found full scope for her talents in perfecting during recent years all that will conduce to the smooth working of the machinery now in motion. Its report just issued shows that their 204 auxiliary hospitals are fully equipped to receive more than 13,000 sick or wounded soldiers. The nursing will be done by a staff of 10,000, aided by more than 2,600 directresses. Flying columns composed of an infirmière major and five nurses are being mobilized in a few hours and dispatched to their posts. Forty-three

66 The Red Cross in War

of these have been sent out since the beginning of hostilities.

No less important service has been rendered by the Association des Dames Françaises, which had 105 auxiliary hospitals ready by August 6th, each containing from 20 to 300 beds. All three societies have organized special ambulance classes, and they are now occupied in the inspection and organization of the private houses, halls, etc., which have been placed at their disposal. No offer is accepted below the minimum number of 20 beds, and funds for their complete equipment must be guaranteed for at least three months.

The Union des Femmes de France takes a specific standpoint as regards the part of women in hospitals and convalescent homes in time of war. It has definitely urged that no woman capable of fulfilling patriotic duties should fail to prepare herself for

them when a call might arise. The members have been taught to feel that although they might never be called upon to exercise them, they should regard it as a point of honour to be prepared for them. At the Red Cross Conference of 1907 General Pegou, speaking as a member of the Union said he hoped that that assemblage would declare that in all nations the greatest efforts should be made to bring the masses to recognize the importance of training women to be ready to offer useful help, as this could not be given without long and careful preparation for the demands that would be made in war.

Then again is the Association des Dames de France, which by August 8th had 105 auxiliary hospitals in readiness for field service with beds ranging in numbers from twenty to two hundred each, and supplied with all requisites.

68 The Red Cross in War

Money and personal service has been quite as freely offered by the women of our Allies as here. The Rouge Croix quickly equipped 207 auxiliary hospitals providing in all 1,700 beds. To this was offered the beautiful old house in the Rue de la Chaise of the Prince de Borghèse, and Mme. Gaston Thomas undertook the direction there of a staff of sixty nurses who are in charge of some 200 beds. The Actresses Home at Pont-aux Dames has been given up for the work of mercy, and here are fifty beds. Even the historic building of the Comedie Française has been converted to the same humane purpose, and operations are performed in the famous foyer in which Rachel and Sarah Bernhardt, Talma and Coquelin have met the artistic celebrities of the world. Mme. Millerand, the wife of the Minister of War, promptly organized two Ambulance centres in the

Lycée Henri IV. and at the Ecole Polytechnique under two of the most distinguished of medical professors.

As far as the location of these various hospitals is concerned, it may be said that in these early days medical and nursing work is veiled in the same secrecy as the disposition of the various corps and units. A medical correspondent writing in the *Lancet* on this subject said :

“ The secrecy observed as to military operations is applied to the doings of the medical staff. It is not even known in their own hospitals in which direction they have been sent, and no information is given as to when the wards prepared may be required. During the trying period of suspense a stupendous amount of organized preparation has been carried out. Not only has the vast machinery of the

70 The Red Cross in War

three French Branches of the Red Cross Society been set in motion, but they have each doubled or trebled their usual capacity, while an incredible number of private offers have been made for the equipment of auxiliary hospitals and ambulances. Of course, it is hoped that much of this will remain unutilized ; but the nation is aware that it is engaged in the most tremendous struggle in the history of the world in point of numbers, and France is calmly determined that no sudden emergency shall find her unprepared."

The same correspondent adds :

" The subscription list opened by this society on August 10th has already gained 187,000 francs. Bands of trained nurses have been sent, among other places, to Rheims, Valenciennes,

Red Cross Organization 71

Amiens, Montdidier, Neufchâtel-sur-Aisne, Châlons, Belfort, Pont-à-Mousson, Fresnes-sur-Orne, and Sigmy l'Abbaye.

"Sixty parties of trained nurses were sent to different points on the frontier, but the rapidity with which events have moved has prevented some of these from reaching their destination.

. . . Besides the actual medical work the Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires has organized several charitable dépôts to help the distressed families who are left without their breadwinner."

Further good work done by the women in France includes the needlework furnished by the English community who meet regularly at the rectory of the English Church, under the presidency of Countess Granville. A central board to deal with the needs of poor and expectant mothers is in working,

72 The Red Cross in War

and under Rouge Croix auspices are a number of kindly endeavours to meet any distress or special needs among the families of the men in the fighting line.

Belgium made early claims on this country for nursing assistance. Even while Liège was making its glorious stand the call came and met an immediate response. One of the first appeals was that from Dr. Marcelle, director of the hospital of St. John, who asked Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's help in this matter. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is of course well known in the world of nursing, and herself took out a contingent to the help of Greece in her war with Turkey some years ago. She turned at once to the St. John Ambulance Association and found them ready to support the work financially. Miss Beatrice Cutler, assistant matron at St. Bartholomew's, was at the head of the party, and

the other nurses were drawn from well-known hospitals and accredited nursing institutions. Parties also went out under Miss Theresa Bryan and Miss Violetta Thurston.

Another party of forty nurses, and three further groups numbering forty more also left at early intervals. Mr. Alfred de Rothschild also sent at his own expense a party of ten fully qualified nurses who were most warmly welcomed, and from Guy's Hospital went out another contingent. The German occupation of Brussels, however, upset many calculations, and it is to an English nurse that we owe one of the best accounts of what really happened in those days of stress and terror. Fourteen English nurses under charge of a sister from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital were at the Palace, but on August 20th the patients were removed to Antwerp.

•

74 The Red Cross in War

Brussels, says this nurse, was like a city of the dead. When the Uhlans arrived they brought all the field telegraph apparatus and were followed by the infantry. The next day the enemy wanted them to hustle away at once or to remain with their own cases. On August 24th she records :

“ This afternoon we were sitting in the gardens, sewing, when suddenly we heard screams, and everyone began to run, mothers snatching up their children, everyone livid in the face and calling on the Saints. We thought the massacres had begun at last, but, do you know, it was nothing. It is the oddest thing I ever saw, and interested me enormously. A regular mob rolled up the hill to take breath, look at the city, and prepare for death, and a fiery little man with one eye harangued them and told them they were every

sort of fool, and I acted as chorus to the best of my ability. Talk of hallucinations—there they stood looking at a little heat mist and a normal red sunset and assuring one another that they saw clouds of smoke and sheets of flame, and one man said continually : ‘ Listen, listen ; one can hear the cannon every minute ! ’ when all was absolutely quiet, and another, ‘ There’s an aeroplane ! Look ! Look ! ’ and everyone looked at space. Sister and I tore down to the town to see if there was any truth at all in it, and found everywhere the same panic, and houses barricaded and people flying from death, and no reason at all. I had been going round to have some coffee after dinner with M—— —, but got a note, ‘ Don’t come ! The French are here and there is fighting

in the streets ! ' All the same I hied me round to Sister, and off we trotted to see this bloody battle, and found the city like an abode of the dead, all the terrified people barricaded in, and no one about but a few German sentries, and we had much ado to get our milkless coffee."

By August 26th the ambulances began to pour through the city, and this brave woman, regardless of who she served in her mission of mercy, worked for twenty-six hours without rest.

So eager in fact were English nurses to help in Belgium during her weeks of agony that more went out than were required, and some indeed had to be recalled. One large party which came by way of Paris to Charleroi was in charge of Miss Robinson and included a granddaughter of Livingstone, the African explorer. They were not,

however, permitted to proceed any nearer to the front to their great disappointment. Antwerp became almost one vast hospital, under the ladies of the Belgian Red Cross Committee. All the orphanages and houses of charity were fitted to receive the wounded, and the Queen of the Belgians inspected the general arrangements prior to bringing her children to safety in England.

Millicent Duchess of Sutherland also took out a party of nurses and offered their services to the Belgian Red Cross Society, which ultimately sent them to Namur, whence they soon came home. Lady Helena Acland-Hood and some friends also equipped a field hospital which got as far as Ostend and was in due course transferred to a base, but even before the middle of September the War Office was asking the British Red Cross Society to recall a number of its nurses. Moreover,

78 The Red Cross in War

various efforts of more or less "freak-like" type were making the gallant little kingdom an excuse for wearing strange garbs. The great exodus of the civil population into this country and Holland, and the uncertainty as to the trend of the military operations then pending reduced the need for nurses in a somewhat unexpected degree.

In the curious ignorance of things and movements Russian that this country has hitherto been steeped, it has never been realised that its Red Cross system is as perfect as any in the world. It is thanks to the exceeding courtesy of Countess Benckendorff and Mme. Wolroff that a sketch can here be given of it, and in certain features it is unlike that of any other country, for its impelling force lies in the traditional relations between the great landowners and the peasantry. Among

the princely and aristocratic families it has been for generations recognized that the ladies should be able to assist their poorer neighbours in illness by keeping simple remedies at hand, advising them on minor ailments, sending doctors to them in more serious matters, and assuming, in short, a kind of duty of protecting them as to health.

Thus, the Russian girl grows up with a sense of interest in such questions and a feeling that she must herself have some nursing knowledge. This the Red Cross organization turns to account, and gives to any who feel that their vocation lies in nursing the opportunity of training for it in very high degree. In Petrograd are a number of "associations," each one dedicated to one of the saints, which receive girls for training who have passed as we should say the sixth form of the

80 The Red Cross in War

gymnasium schools. The hospitals themselves, which are most admirably arranged and equipped, are supported by the municipality in the towns, or the Zemstvo, though on many of the large landed estates the owner often supports an institution for the poorer folk around.

It was only on August 1st last that the municipal council of Moscow voted £1,000,000 for the Red Cross Service. This has a Board of Administration of which the Dowager Empress Marie is President, retaining the position she has held since the work began in Russia, while all the Grand Duchesses are members, the Empress giving it her general support and liberal donations. There are 8 Boards of District Administration, 509 local Red Cross Committees, 60 communities of nurses, 90 "ambulatory clinics," 6 emergency hospitals, and 7 convalescent homes.

Perhaps the unique features in the scheme are the communities of nurses. Each one of them is dedicated to a saint, though they are not religious houses in the ordinary sense of the word. As a rule they number about 200 members, who learn their nursing work very thoroughly in the hospitals, always with the end in ultimate view of being called upon for war work. The course lasts for three years, covering all branches and including hospital routine and management. Their uniform varies slightly in each community, but is usually dark brown or blue woollen material for outdoor work, and cotton for hospital ward wear, with a plain white apron. The caps are severely plain, and are somewhat on the model of a handkerchief tied over the hair.

The Red Cross Service does all the Army nursing, and indeed exists primarily

82 The Red Cross in War

for that purpose. Every Russian regiment has its doctor, and in peace time and the ordinary barrack needs he has the help of the *Sanitaires*, who would appear in some measure to answer to the orderlies of our own R.A.M.C. In war time, when the Red Cross nurses are called out, about twenty-five are attached to each field hospital with ten *sanitaires* for the rougher ward duties and for the heavier work, as of raising the patients in bed.

The Russian Red Cross nurse is allowed much nearer the firing zone than our own or those of the French in theory are supposed to come. In the war with Japan, when the work was done with a devotion and a courage rarely equalled and certainly never surpassed, many nurses were wounded. One of them, Nurse Boje by name, had a limb most seriously shattered after such heroic efforts to bring the wounded to safety

and treatment. The St. George's medal and ribbon was awarded her, and she is the only woman who has ever received this distinction. Among the first to go to the front was the Grand Duchess Olga, sister of the Tsar, whose presence and help is a great encouragement in the hospitals.

By her own request, she is addressed as "Sister" by her patients in the hospital at Rovno to which she was attached. She performs the actual work of nursing in dressing wounds, putting on bandages, and administering nourishment and medicines, and her gentleness and promptitude in fulfilling all the doctors' directions earn their own admiration. "The angelic consoler" is the phrase used by officers and men alike concerning her, and a colonel who had begged of her some slight memento of her gracious and merciful help received a card on which she had written some words

84 The Red Cross in War

of good wishes, which he told her would be cherished in his family as one of its most precious heirlooms.

Another work that is doing valuable service has for headquarters the Convent of Mary and Martha, at Moscow, founded by the Grand Duchess Serge, who wished to give those women desirous of taking up a religious vocation the opportunity of doing so to practical purpose. This sends nurses into the homes of the soldiers, cares for their children, looks after the aged, and in many ways fulfils an exceedingly valuable auxiliary place at the present time.

It may be recalled how this country had an exceedingly impressive object lesson on the development of Red Cross work throughout the world when a great International Congress assembled in London in 1907. Officially represented at that were

Red Cross Organization 85

France, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Austria Hungary, Spain, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Peru, Guatemala, Siam, Persia and other States. Russia on that occasion was specially important, for in 1902 the Dowager Empress Marie had caused a sum of 100,000 roubles to be invested, and in due course to provide three prizes of £500 each to be awarded at this Congress by an International Council of eight experts for competition as to appliances that would be of practical service in the field. The scope of the competition included inventions relating to the discovery and raising of the wounded on the battle-field; methods of transporting the wounded to the nearest posts for treatment as rapidly and painlessly as possible, and their removal to the base. By a curious irony, there were more competitors from Germany than any other

86 The Red Cross in War

country, and its ambulance trains were remarkably good. At the outset of the Russo-Japanese War, no central organization had come into existence for the treatment of prisoners of war. Then it was that the Central Red Cross Committee decided, on the suggestion of M. de Martens, to add this to its general work, and opened an office for the purpose in Petrograd. It had its agents at the theatre of war in the persons of the principal Red Cross workers, and the military authorities gave it every possible assistance, while the French Diplomatic and Consular representatives in Japan lent all possible aid.

Acting in the light of the experience then gained, the Russian Red Cross representatives officially submitted to the London Conference that :

(1) Red Cross Societies are by the very nature of things obliged to take

charge of the assistance to be given to prisoners of war.

(2) From the outbreak of hostilities the Red Cross Societies of the belligerent forces should without delay establish information bureaux for prisoners of war.

(3) It is desirable that these bureaux should mutually keep up direct correspondence with the consent previously obtained of the competent authorities of the respective countries.

These proposals were adopted by the conference, and are likely to be of use in the present war.

As regards the enemy's Red Cross Service, there is little recent information to be gleaned. It has been carried on, but the medical department does not seem to have been in any very close touch with it. Indeed at an International Congress of

88 The Red Cross in War

nurses at Berlin a few years ago, Sister Agnes Karll, one of the most distinguished members of her profession in Germany, said that in the 'nineties some medical men had perceived the importance to their own work of skilled nursing. "Unfortunately," she added, "the interest of the medical world since then has declined to a critical extent. In the first decade after the war (of 1870) excellent training began to be developed in the mother houses of the Red Cross. But the need for trained nurses grew so rapidly that the standard of training was impaired to meet it."

This would seem to be the case now from the scanty accounts that have been permitted by the German authorities to leak out. Mr. Osborn, in charge of a British Red Cross contingent in Belgium, recorded in the *Lancet* how :

"We have just returned to Brussels

after spending a week at Gembloux treating German casualties from the battlefields around Namur and Aizeau. During that period about 350 Germans passed through our hands, and altogether we must have seen 1,500 or more cases. At first some of the Germans refused to be treated by us, and as we were not allowed to help the wounded prisoners we had time on our hands in which to observe the German medical corps on active service. It cannot be said that their methods impressed us favourably. Among the cases that came under us for assistance, wounds of the extremities were at least three times more common than in other parts, the upper extremity suffering equally with the lower. In the gunshot wounds there was the usual small wound of entrance with the

larger one of exit, which was suppurating in 60 per cent. of our cases, showing that the German first field dressing is not a very efficient preventive against sepsis.

“The wounds of entrance healed rapidly, there was no sinus left, the typical wound at the end of four days being represented by a suppurating patch of tissue about an inch in diameter at the place of exit. We saw few fractures, but such as occurred were severe and compound. Several of these had been treated at dressing stations with plaster-of-Paris splints—a dangerous practice when the men were unable to be kept under observation for some time. A Hanoverian officer with his left arm in a plaster-of-Paris splint came to us and complained of pain in the hand. On

Red Cross Organization 91

examination Mr. Osborn found no evidence of circulation, and at the end of 45 minutes' work with a razor, as we had no clippers, the splint was removed. It had been intended that this man should have gone on to Liège, an eight hours' journey, without further medical attention. The German transport for wounded was very poor indeed; except for four light ambulance wagons, about 2,000 wounded were evacuated through Gembloux on improvised farm carts, each cart containing a little straw and carrying about twelve men.

"The scheme was to collect the cases from the battles round Namur and Aizeau, to use Gembloux as the railhead, and to hurry all the cases without discrimination back through Liège to Germany. We

saw one man who was shot, taken from bed, dressed in full kit with his rifle slung, and dragged along on foot to the station. Here the only accommodation provided for the wounded consisted of cattle trucks in which wooden benches had been placed, no space being left on the floor for the badly wounded. Of the great discomforts and the foul atmosphere of such a journey we can speak for ourselves, since we were compelled to use this means to return to Brussels.

“The feeding of the patients at our hospital was in charge of a German orderly, and here again there was a total lack of discrimination. Black bread and German sausage or fat bacon were provided every day, and if a man were too ill to eat such fare he went without. Fresh milk was impossible to obtain but our nurses managed to secure

condensed milk and weak coffee for a few of the gravest cases. We saw several operations in the big base hospital. It was a curious sight ; a most extraordinary mixture of asepsis and filthy work. For instance, the region round the wound was shaved, yet half the hairs fell into the wound ; the surgeon washed his hands most carefully, and then touched the cigar which he smoked all the time ; the instruments were carefully sterilised by boiling, and then placed on a towel which had been used for the instruments for the last twenty operations."

An expert authority summing up the position says, " On the technical side of nursing the Red Cross has been a factor both for good and for poor standards. Its nurses in continental countries have often been well and carefully trained. In some countries, the Red Cross nurses as

94 The Red Cross in War

they are called stand in the very front rank for ability and thorough preparation. On the other hand, the very nature of the Red Cross Societies encourages volunteer services, and while this arm of the service can and does do magnificent work in general relief, the same cannot be said of nursing, which a superficial training must always render incompetent. Lay workers of all social grades from attendants to princesses have had a passion for so-called army nursing, which has promoted short courses in bandaging and in first aid, often hastily given in the presence of some emergency. This has been especially true of those countries where the Red Cross has been least thoroughly organized and has most retained a volunteer character; but this is far less, or even not at all, applicable in those countries where the Red Cross has been most seriously looked upon as an important arm of the public service."

THE TERRITORIAL HOSPITALS

" She nurses best, who always has in mind
That touch so tender, and that look so kind
Of Him, who came this mortal frame to wear.

* * * * *

The hands that thus do serve have wondrous Love,
They never weary—never careless prove ;
To such the night-watch, silent as the tomb
Save for its groans, has neither dread nor gloom.
No task too menial, naught too hard can prove,
Their meanest act is sanctified by Love.
Nurse on, dear daughter, shrink not, it is He
On the white throne shall say ' It was for Me.' "

" THE VOLUNTARY AID NURSE," BY THE DEAN OF
EXETER.

BETWEEN the British Red Cross Society and the Territorial General Hospital there exists a connection not quite clear to many. When the Volunteer force was re-organized into the Territorial Army for Home Defence, it was necessary, of course, to provide them with an adequate medical

96 The Red Cross in War

corps, and of course with nurses. This offered an occasion for preparing to utilize the mass of voluntary help that experience has shown is always lavishly forthcoming whenever war is in the air. That much of it is futile and likely to be a hindrance rather than a benefit at such a time, is not to the point. Wiser people saw how to turn it to account in readiness for emergencies that all knew must arise one day.

Few realize what is due to the foresight of Miss Haldane, while her brother, now Viscount Haldane, was Secretary of State for War. She, more clearly perhaps than any, saw the possibility of linking up all this mass of well-intentioned effort into a definite scheme. That the British Red Cross Society should work in conjunction with the Army Council was a happy idea in the creation of the new hospitals, and it gave a dignity and status to their purpose,

The Territorial Hospitals 97

the value of which has now become apparent. The various County Associations that have assisted in forming the Territorial Battalions, are now associated with the Red Cross Society, whose voluntary aid detachments furnish the nursing staffs for the hospitals.

The formation of these Voluntary Aid Detachments has been no mere mushroom growth of the last few weeks. On the contrary, in January last, there were no fewer than 1,903 detachments registered at the War Office, with a personnel of 55,156. Since then others have been added, while many are qualifying for registration at the present time.

The official composition of a Women's Detachment is :

1 Commandant (man or woman and not necessarily a doctor).

1 *Medical Officer (to be attached*

D

98 The Red Cross in War

*when available and when the
Commandant is not a doctor).*

1 Lady Superintendent, who should
be a trained nurse.

1 Quartermaster (man or woman).

1 *Pharmacist (if available).*

20 women, of whom 4 should be
qualified as cooks.

—

23

—

Thus all forms of feminine effort can be utilized, as the best equipped of them have their helpers who contribute gifts of bedding, or who undertake to do some specific needlework.

There are twenty-three Territorial hospitals in Great Britain between Aberdeen and Brighton, and to each of these as many Voluntary Aid Detachments as it would require for the due working when its 525

The Territorial Hospitals 99

beds were to be in readiness have been assigned. Large halls, public buildings, and school premises have been inspected, and will be requisitioned as occasion will demand, and meantime all the detachments have had official inspection by the War Office, and in some instances have enjoyed the opportunity of going into camps.

And here let it be said that there is a matron-in-chief, who is ultimately responsible for the scheme of nursing. It is Miss Sidney Browne who is filling that post, for, on her well-earned retirement from her heavy labours in creating the Military Service, she was asked to undertake this no less exacting task. She has chosen her principal matrons for all the twenty-three hospitals with full knowledge of their qualifications, and among them are some of the ablest and most distinguished members of their profession.

100 The Red Cross in War

Very early indeed on the declaration of war were the London Divisions mobilized, and the result generally fulfilled all expectations as to their fitness and readiness. The first of them usually has its headquarters at the erstwhile Duke of York's School, Chelsea, but it is now at St. Gabriel's College, Camberwell. It is the special object of interest for all ladies connected with the city who, at the instance of the Lady Mayoress, have greatly helped in its equipment. All the surgical and medical staff under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), are drawn from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the nursing organization was largely directed by Miss Cox Davies as Principal Matron, while Miss Acton, of the Lewisham Infirmary, is the matron of the hospital.

The second hospital, which hitherto has had the same headquarters, is at St.

The Territorial Hospitals 101

Mark's College, Chelsea, has Miss Darbyshire, matron of St. Mary's Hospital, and Miss Riddell, of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, as principal matron and matron respectively. These posts for Hospital No. III. at the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum, are Miss Barton, of Chelsea Infirmary, and Miss Hodden, of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin. Hospital No. IV. is particularly fortunate in having the use of certain blocks of the magnificent new King's College Hospital, where its own matron, Miss Ray, will take chief charge of the nursing.

Up and down the country these hospitals have been quickly made ready. The 1st Southern Territorial Hospital, Birmingham, was given special commendation for the punctuality with which its matron, Miss Lloyd, and her sisters and nurses reported themselves to the commanding officer. They numbered ninety-one, and

102 The Red Cross in War

came chiefly from local institutions, though some had been called from considerable distances. There is always an appreciable percentage of injuries, accidents and illness on mobilization, and these nurses proved most useful in dealing with such troubles from the moment of taking over their duties.

At Lincoln there was evidence of the readiness of all to do their part in the great crisis. The district had fittingly commemorated King Edward by building a new County Hospital, which was nearly completed when the mobilization order came. In order to finish it in time for any contingencies and to make the nurses' home habitable the men worked by shifts day and night, and it is here that the full complement of ninety-one nurses under Miss Sheppard, as principal matron of the 4th Northern General Hospital, are housed.

The Territorial Hospitals 103

Special commendation was early accorded to Miss Sparshott, principal matron of the 2nd General Western Hospital at Manchester, and Miss Wordhouse, the assistant matron, for the efficiency of their nursing staff, and the promptitude and punctuality with which they mustered. This, in fact, proved to be the case with all as they were called up, and thus was afforded the most convincing testimony as to the thoroughness with which the preliminary organization had been carried out.

NURSING FOR THE NAVY

"Some know not they are wounded till
'Tis slippery where they stand ;
Then each one tighter grips his steel
As 'twere Salvation's hand.
Grim faces glow through lurid night,
With sweat of spirit shining bright ;
Only the dead on deck turn white."

GERALD MASSEY.

As far as women are concerned, the nursing service of the Navy is a very small one. In it are only some sixty members, while at Haslar, Devonport, and Chatham are the three who rank as principal matrons. There are naval hospitals however at Shotley, Portland and Haulbowline, and all of these have been extended for immediate needs. Haslar has accommodation for 1,400 men, Plymouth for 1,000 and Chatham for 1,000.

Even perhaps more than with the Army orderly, however, is the importance of adequate training for the sick bay attendants. For no woman nurse is to be found on any ship of his Majesty's Service, and it needs very little imagination indeed to picture the appalling possibilities of a great naval fight. Wounds from heavy shell explosions, the crushing weight that could fall on men when a gun and its mounting are thrown out of place by some colossal projectile, the horrors of burns in the inferno of the stokehold, the agony of scalds from burst pipes and boilers, the suffocating by the fumes of explosives, must cause injury and suffering before the contemplation of which the mind literally reels.

At the side of the surgeons in their grim tasks between deck stand the sick bay attendants. Their training has been received in the three chief hospitals and it

106 The Red Cross in War

has been well said of them that they bring the skill and gentleness of a woman into conjunction with the strength and courage of a man. How well they had done their work was evident when the wounded from the *Amphion* were brought to Shotley. The survivors had been most carefully treated, and of course, once at Shotley every care was theirs.

In the absolutely essential secrecy that must be observed as to all naval movements in the early days of the war it was not easy to gain much preliminary detail, and only generalities could be told. But the Admiralty arrangements for dealing with the wounded had been as complete and thorough as all else connected with the First Line of Defence. All contingencies were prepared for from the hand-to-hand encounter of a couple of destroyers to a great action between the Grand Fleet and

the *Hoch See Flotte* which proved so chary of showing fight.

Between the fighting ships of whatever calibre and the shore the connecting links are the hospital ships. These conform strictly to every rule of the Geneva Convention and the International authority for this was informed early that Great Britain would have eight of them doing their work of mercy afloat. Each carries a full complement of medical officers with probationer surgeons as dressers, and of course a full complement of sick bay attendants. On some of them nurses are carried. The communications to a medical paper of a young surgeon of the Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers, who is serving on one of them, may give an idea of the organization of this modern adjunct to the medical service of the Navy. They will also show the spirit in which our young

108 The Red Cross in War

doctors have gone to serve their country. After announcing during the early days of August that mobilization orders had arrived, and that he was starting to join a hospital ship, he says :

“ Everybody tells me that getting on a hospital ship is about the best job one could get, so I am very lucky. I hope to goodness we get away before any action is fought.” In a later note he describes his ship : “ They have certainly spread themselves in doing us well. We have beds for about 190 patients, and our medical complement is principal medical officer, six surgeons, six dressers, four nursing sisters, and about forty naval sick berth nurses (males). We have two theatres—really quite nice considering, with lifts down from the main deck to the wards, laundry, etc., in addition. Our own

cabins are very nice, large and airy, with electric fans. There is quite decent bath-room accommodation. She is quite a large ship, employed in peace time as a troopship, and ought to be a pretty good sea boat. The crew have their own doctor quite apart from us. There is no doubt about it that this is the billet to get in war time. Our principal medical officer strikes me as being a very nice man. Somehow he knew that I was senior resident at the — Hospital. On the whole I think I am in for a thoroughly good thing, and I hope I am able to make the most of it." After the ship had sailed for her destination he writes: "We have been very busy getting everything straight and ready for business. All things considered we are really fitted up very nicely. We have

110 The Red Cross in War

two operating theatres, over one of which I have charge, and I also, of course, have my own ward to look after. My quarters are extremely comfortable."

The Homœopathic Hospital supplied some nurses who were detailed for duty on one of the hospital ships, and the matron permitted the publication of the letter of one of them, in a professional paper which supplements admirably the surgeons narrative. This nurse writes :

" MY DEAR MATRON,—Picture to yourself a large ship, painted white with a green band, flying the Red Cross flag, and on the decks nurses dressed in the Army uniform, grey and scarlet. Amongst the occupants of the deck-chairs you will see three you know. There are over 200 now on board, and we are taking them to various places

on the coast of France, on our way to the port where we are to pick up the wounded. The base hospital here, Havre, has had to be moved on account of the Germans, so another one on the coast is being made. We have been a week on this ship, and are having a good time. I am in charge of the wounded officers and some of the 'Tommies' who can walk.

"We have been back to England twice, carrying 600 wounded the first time, and 400 the last. We are very busy when we have them on board, but our return is easy, as we only prepare for the next reception, and then rest. There are four sisters and five R.A.M.C., and a colonel and about twenty-five orderlies. We get on well together, and all seem most kind and obliging. 'So far, so good.'

112 The Red Cross in War

"The most impressive sight is to see the Belgians going out by moonlight, singing and cheering as they go, in a large ship lighted up and holding thousands of men. The officers have told me most pitiful tales, and one realises very much the horrors of war when the wounded are brought from the hospital to the ship, stretcher after stretcher with men all covered in bandages, and some mentally afflicted as well.

"We are continually receiving fresh orders, and never know where we are going to for certain. We arrived here yesterday morning, and now I am told we are staying here until tomorrow evening, but probably that will be contradicted. We are most comfortable, and have good food and nice cabins. I have two orderlies to

help me with the officers. On their arrival I take their names, rank, regiment, and religion, and then do their dressings and make them comfortable. Last time I had fifteen officers, and before that twelve. They are very nice, and had awful wounds.

“SISTER L. C.”

Another nurse describes how almost as soon as they had reached Havre they were sent on board the Hospital ship, which was leaving at night a few hours later. “I shall never forget that night as long as I live—what with the wounded coming in on stretchers while we were hustled along through endless corridors.”

The first one then resumes the story and goes on :

“I like the soldiers so much. Poor things, all they want to do is to get

better quickly, so that they can go back to have another shot at the enemy. They are just like innocent children when we are about, but I believe they can swear terribly when we are not there. They have horrible wounds, worse than anything I have ever seen, but they never grumble. One poor fellow told me he killed a German, and got one in the eye for doing it. I am afraid, poor man, he has lost the sight of one eye; but they do not seem to think anything of such things, and are disgusted if they do not have anything to show for having been to the front. One poor man was quite upset because he was silly enough to have pneumonia. They have various complaints—pneumonia through exposure—and I have had two or three suffering simply from exhaustion; long

marches and sleeping out having been too much for them. They are too tired to feed themselves, have no temperature and a feeble pulse ; but it is wonderful what hot beef-tea and a warm bed does for them ; they all look better very quickly."

It is when the chief Naval hospitals are reached that women nurses are to be found in fuller force. Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service in itself is a small one, numbering all told about seventy members. The conditions of entry are similar to those regarding the Army, but it has not a centralized controlling board of its own as is the case with the Military Service. As to its personnel there are three head sisters, namely Miss Evangeline Harte, R.R.C., at Plymouth ; Miss Margaret Keehan, R.R.C., at Chatham, and Miss Katherine Hickley, R.R.C., at

116 The Red Cross in War

Haslar. At the other Naval hospitals in this country, Gibraltar, Malta and Hong Kong, superintending sisters, of whom there are six, are in charge, and distributed among all are fifty-two nursing sisters, while Haslar has ten probationary nursing sisters.

Obviously, the withdrawal of all the trained sick bay men for the various ships would leave these hospitals seriously understaffed even on a peace footing. With that same wise foresight that has left nothing to chance or until the last moment, the Medical Department at the Admiralty decided to form an adequate reserve of nurses for their own requirements. They placed themselves in communication with the boards of management or committees of the leading hospitals, who, in consultation with their matrons, were able to draw up a simple and practical scheme.

The number of nurses that it was then

estimated would be needed when "the Real Thing came" was 250. Each hospital was asked to supply a statement as to how many nurses it could provide at twelve hours' notice, how many at a fortnight's warning, and how many later on still, the divisions being classed as A, B, and C. The lists were soon made up, and the further most practical regulation was laid down that there should be a complete revision made every six months. For this there is very good reason. Much may happen in six months to a nurse. Her own health may break down. She may find herself specializing in some direction extremely useful to her hospital, but of little value as regards wounded men. The nurse, for instance, who had found her best vocation in the children's medical wards, might well be taken off the reserve list in favour of another who had manifested

118 The Red Cross in War

exceptional skill and dexterity in the operating theatre.

In working result, the principles on which the Reserve were based proved excellently satisfactory. On August 3rd the London Hospital had a call for twenty of Class A, and St. Bartholomew's for seven. The next morning saw the two contingents ready to start, those from the London for Haslar, and the others for Chatham, all proud and happy beyond words that they had been the first of the Reserve to be mobilized.

Others went away a little later, and Shotley was fully ready when the men of the *Amphion*, victims of the wicked sowing of mines in the fairway of peaceful trade, were brought in.

The Admiralty has also a working arrangement with a number of the chief civil hospitals and special hospitals to receive

such cases as may be sent there. Various highly important auxiliary hospitals have also been accepted, on one of which the Queen has bestowed her own name, and is affording it her practical help in many ways. The Duke and Duchess of Portland made themselves responsible for raising the necessary funds ; Lady Maud Wilbraham acted as honorary secretary. It so happened that the extremely fine buildings of the Palace Hotel at Southend were vacant, and its proprietors offered it for use as a hospital. All steps were taken to fit it up suitably, but the reluctance of the German *Hoch See Flotte* to show fight has given ample time to get it ready for whatever may happen whenever the great action takes place.

But the Royal ladies as usual are bearing a large share in all sorts of gracious endeavours, and the Princess Christian is

120 The Red Cross in War

especially concerned, in association with the Queen, with a voluntary base hospital in the Firth of Forth, at South Queensferry, opposite Rosyth. It has been privately presented to her Royal Highness, who has the collaboration of Mr. Alfred Moseley as director. The surgical staff for this has been drawn from the London Hospital, and the St. John Ambulance Association are supplying the orderlies and nurses. Lady Beatty has placed her beautiful yacht at the disposal of the hospital, and on it is a particularly efficient little nursing staff.

Another hospital has been organized by Lady Nunburnholme at the mouth of the Humber—a position that is exceptionally important in relation to any North Sea fighting—and the Admiralty have gladly accepted the offer.

Peculiarly significant of the new movement

among Indian women is the announcement that the Begum of Bhopal would be largely responsible for the fitting out of the *Loyalty*—the fitly named hospital ship that will be at the service of the vast Indian contingent that hastened to the call of the Empire. India possesses no wiser, shrewder or more statesmanlike administrator than the extraordinarily clever woman who alone of her sex stands among its rulers. The Begum sends of her own Imperial Service troops, and her son and heir in command. That, in itself, is a great contribution. But the Begum has always understood the vast importance of the education of women generally, and of affording them the best medical assistance. She has been foremost in supporting the new Medical College for Women at Delhi, which has the entire approval of the Queen-Empress, and was so dear

122 The Red Cross in War

to the heart of the late gentle and gracious Lady Hardinge. It is a fine act, that will have influences so far-reaching on the Indian imagination as to constitute one of the many amazing indications of the changed order of the world that this war is bringing about. To the men who benefit by it, will be a newer, wider conception of what women can do for them outside the home; to the women who hear of it, and know what it did for their husbands and fathers when they went at the call of the British Raj, it will be an inspiration to fuller service.

Equally, the women of the Overseas Dominions are coming forward with splendid support. Through the Duchess of Connaught, the women of Canada have offered to maintain a Naval base hospital bearing the name of the Queen for the officers and men of the Fleet. With a graceful

recognition of the significance of such a gift it is to be made a supplement to the most important of the Naval hospitals, and is established at Haslar.

At the same time, the Grand Trunk Railway's steamer *Prince George* is offered from Canada as a hospital ship. Her ordinary fittings have been removed, and at the Royal Dockyard, Esquimault, accommodation for a hundred cot cases has been put in, while the ordinary first-class passenger cabins have been skilfully converted into comfortable accommodation for invalids. A beautifully appointed operating theatre and a smooth running lift are notable features of the ship. Six nursing sisters have been appointed to it from the Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, which ranks high among the training schools of the Dominion.

HELP OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CORPS

"The eight points of the Cross are the signs of the eight Beatitudes, which thou must ever observe. 1st, Spiritual joy ; 2nd, To live without malice ; 3rd, To weep over thy sins ; 4th, To humble thyself to those who injure thee ; 5th, To love justice ; 6th, To be merciful ; 7th, To be pure in heart ; 8th, To suffer persecution."—FROM THE MÆDIEVAL EXHORTATION TO THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

No survey of the more humane and gentle side of the war would be complete without full recognition of the valuable part borne by the St. John Ambulance Association in providing trained stretcher bearers, orderlies and nurses. Tradition counts for much, and though in places the links may be thin, these modern exemplars of help and mercy are justified in claiming that they carry on the work that was begun what

St. John Ambulance Corps 125

time the Crusaders were rescuing the Holy Sepulchre from the Infidel Saracen. The Order at its outset was one of chivalry and benevolence, and it was no less than Godfrey de Bouillon himself who visited the sufferers under its care when, "the admiration excited by the devotion of the brethren caring for the sick induced several crusaders of noble birth to lay aside their arms and join them in their merciful work, and Godfrey was so grateful for the benefits which he and his crusaders had received that he endowed it richly with lordships and dependencies in various parts of Europe," says the historian.

But here it is unnecessary to trace the various phases through which the Order passed in Plantagenet and Tudor days. The quaintest page perhaps in its history was an attempt under King William IV. to revive some of its past glories, with

126 The Red Cross in War

Sir Robert Peel as Grand Prior. Those days were not quite the time at which the appeal to the historic imagination could be successfully made.

Under Queen Victoria however—in 1888 to be precise—the old Order did successfully take a new lease of life, and to-day is duly constituted with the Sovereign as head and Patron, a Grand Prior in the Duke of Connaught, a Prelate in the Archbishop of York, and the degrees of Knights and Ladies of Justice, and Knights and Ladies of Grace.

Ten years before that, however, the St. John Ambulance Association had come into being. It is to that that we owe to-day so valuable and efficient an auxiliary service to the rendering of first-aid in the field, and to the nursing Reserves in the base hospitals. London knows something of these quiet, unobtrusive men and women

St. John Ambulance Corps 127

on the occasions of the assemblage of vast crowds. In the rear of the serried masses, up by-streets, or some other quiet spot a few yards off the route of the procession, they are waiting to give their valuable help to the woman who faints ; to the man who meets with an accident ; to the child over fatigued and excited and verging on hysteria.

They have had, especially the men, experience of rendering first-aid under conditions not far removed from those of battle. After a terrible railway accident the porters and station staff, who have competed, may be, for the challenge shield which each line is only proud to win, are quickly on the spot, saving valuable lives in their knowledge of what to do promptly. Equally, when a colliery explosion has occurred, they are cool and swift in service. The police have learnt their duties in

128 The Red Cross in War

this direction from the Association. It has, in fact, built up a big and practical voluntary force whose real value was first recognized in the South African War, and is now demonstrating again what unknown assets of zeal and devotion the country possesses.

What this enthusiasm has achieved is shown by the fact that at the outset of the war there were over 25,000 men holding its certificates, and that the percentage who at once offered their services was exceedingly high. Almost immediately, 450 were accepted by the Army Medical Department and left with the Expeditionary Force, while 2,300 were at once called up, some 600 going to the military hospitals to take the place of the R.A.M.C. orderlies. Woolwich absorbed 200 of them for the Herbert Hospital, enlisted for the whole

St. John Ambulance Corps 129

period of the war, and put them into khaki uniform. Their work won Colonel Simpson's high approval from the first, and the same good report of it comes from the other hospitals to which they were attached.

No fewer than 1,200 were drafted into the Naval Hospitals, showing how completely these were depleted of the sick bay attendants for service with the Grand Fleet and elsewhere. A few of these were also placed on the hospital ships.

Of nurses, the Association has sent out 130. They are fully trained and highly qualified in all respects, for the rule strictly observed at all times is to send none that are not. A large number, equally capable, remained on the waiting list forming a reserve on which a call could safely be made at the shortest notice, going about

130 The Red Cross in War

the while on their ordinary duties and thus helping to maintain the steady and ordered routine which the everyday life of the country has enjoyed.

Adeline Duchess of Bedford has filled the chair of the Ladies' Committee which has supported the various branches of the work by collecting money and contributions of clothing and hospital stores. In time of peace the various brigades are able to be almost self-supporting by the gifts of local friends. But something more than this even stands to the credit of the movement which was mobilized so quickly in the opening days of August. It has carried sounder ideas of health, sanitation, and elementary nursing into the homes of the people, and has led its members on to desire proficiency in the work they have voluntarily taken up. Had it not been for

St. John Ambulance Corps 131

this zeal, the military hospitals would have been far less efficiently ready when transport and train were bringing their hundreds to the wards.

IN THE WARDS

"The general idea is, as far as possible, to bring our wounded fellows back to their own county, or town, to recover and recuperate. This will enable them to be visited at the earliest possible moment by their relatives and friends, and it needs no special discernment to know that these joyful reunions are the best of tonic."—SIR FREDERICK TREVES.

THE present war shows that the care of the wounded on their arrival in this country has been thought out on a definite plan, based upon a humane consideration for the feelings of families and friends. It is the first time that this has been the case, for the wounded as they arrived from South Africa were sent to Netley or Woolwich or Aldershot according to the convenience of the Department and regardless of the Regiment or the district from which the sufferers came. Many a relative had

to possess their souls in patience because they had not the money to spend on the railway fare to visit the son or husband in a hospital at a distance from home.

Netley in these days is reserved for the reception of the specially serious cases, and its proximity to Southampton renders the journey as short as possible for the invalid who has been put on board the hospital ship at Havre. At the other great military hospitals the fullest preparations began concurrently with the mobilization, to be in readiness for early demands upon their resources. The Nursing Reserves were called up wherever necessary, and came to their new duties with zeal and enthusiasm. The full list of the military hospitals is as follows :

Queen Alexandra Military Hospital,
London.

Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot.

134 The Red Cross in War

Connaught Hospital, Aldershot.

Fort Pitt, Chatham.

Military Hospital, Chatham.

Military Hospital, Shorncliffe.

Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

Military Hospital, Belfast.

King George Hospital, Dublin.

Military Hospital, Curragh.

Military Hospital, Cork.

Military Hospital, York.

Military Hospital, Lichfield.

Military Hospital, Devonport.

Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.

Military Hospital, Tidworth.

Military Hospital, Edinburgh.

Over and beyond these, military sections in a number of the larger civil hospitals had been previously arranged for, among the great homes of healing which met the requirements of the Royal Army being St. Bartholomew's, St. George's, St. Thomas's,

the Westminster, the Great Northern, the Middlesex, the London, the Metropolitan, and the West London. Several of the specialized hospitals, as the London Fever Hospital, the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, and the Eye, Throat and Ear Hospital, are also receiving patients from the front whose injuries or illness would be most suitably treated in their wards. Up and down the country additional accommodation can be claimed where necessary, for nothing has been left to chance, and all is working as smoothly as such foresight promised.

It soon became evident that it was the intention to send as many as possible to the hospitals at home with the utmost dispatch. The Expeditionary Force had borne the fiercest brunt of the fighting round Mons between August 24th and 27th. On Sunday, August 30th, the first party of

wounded officers and men reached London, the latter being destined for the London Hospital, which had placed 250 beds at the disposal of the War Office, and a like number with the Admiralty. The military wounded had not been expected anything like so soon, but at noon a message came, asking if they could receive 100 wounded at seven that night.

Willingly all rose to the emergency. It was no easy matter on a Sunday to arrange to convey so large a party from Waterloo, where they were to arrive, to the hospital, but Mr. Alfred Salmon was consulted, and he promptly secured the promise of a number of Messrs. Lyons' vans. A call for volunteers to drive them was eagerly responded to by all the men usually engaged in this work. Then the West London Hospital, only too glad to take any part in this work, sent the welcome offer of thirty

mattresses, and students helped to make the vans into ambulances. Captain Fenwick of the Consulting Staff assumed command, while the students, porters and others constituted the bearer parties.

Meantime, Miss Eva Lückes who, as matron, has had greater experience than any other lady in this position in England, and whose powers of organization are altogether exceptional, had, with her assistant-matron, made all preparations in the wards. Soup, tea, cocoa, all sorts of little delicacies, for men who had fought hard and fared ill, were prepared, and by nine o'clock the men were arriving, sisters and nurses were in attendance on the surgeons, rapid examinations were made, and the men thoroughly tired and exhausted after fighting what all agreed was far more furious than had been pictured in their most vivid imaginings, and the long journey with the

138 The Red Cross in War

transfers from train to transport, and transport to train, were only thankful for quiet and rest.

This however was not the case with the hospital staff. Even while they were admitting and examining these first arrivals, came another War Office request to receive 150 more by five a.m. on Monday, August 31st. Again were prompt measures taken; rearrangements were made as to the disposal of a number of the general patients, the night nurses throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the heavy extra work. Readiness was achieved, but shortly before five came the news that the second contingent were not to be expected till ten o'clock. The respite was welcome, as it gave breathing time, but let it stand to the eternal honour of the splendid staff, from the matron down to the last joined probationer, how they worked on behalf of the men.

The King and Queen, ever ready to cheer those in suffering and recognize the zeal in well-doing of others, came, two days later, to visit their soldiers, and to assure Viscount Knutsford, Mr. Morris, the energetic secretary, and Miss Lückes of their appreciation of all that they had done.

Netley received its first party on August 31st, and soon had 800 cases in its airy wards. The matron there is Miss Rannie, who came to her important position in 1903 with a fine record of previous nursing service. Every one who has ever come up Southampton Waters knows the handsome and imposing range of buildings on the same block plan as that of St. Thomas's. Many improvements were made in it to receive the wounded from Egypt and South Africa, one of the most notable being that of the railway that runs into the centre of the hospital. This was suggested as a

140 The Red Cross in War

necessity by Queen Victoria herself, as far back as 1875, though nothing was then done. Even after Omdurman, when her late Majesty again urged that it should be constructed, the work was not done, and it was only just before the last of the three visits that she paid to the wounded in 1900—on May 16th to be precise—that she was able to travel over the short extension that connected it with the loop line out of Southampton.

It is of course no unusual thing for Netley to receive large contingents of invalids, for every transport from India brings a considerable number suffering from various maladies and the results of serious accidents. All was in readiness for these first arrivals, and great was the satisfaction when it appeared that the proportion of cases to be classed as " Dangerously wounded " was smaller than had

been anticipated. There were many—indeed the majority of those received—whose wounds were the result of bursting shrapnel. It is convincing testimony to the truth of the fact so generally expressed that the enemy are exceedingly poor marksmen, to find that in hardly any instances were the wounds due to bullets, the cause usually of by far the largest number of “war wounds.” Moreover, surprisingly few limbs had been lost, or called for amputations. On the other hand sore feet were numerous and would indicate that the exceptional heat and the constant marching of the first stage of the war had been very severely felt.

Other early arrivals went from Southampton to Portsmouth by a specially constructed hospital train. They numbered about 140, and were taken to the 5th Southern General Hospital, where Miss

142 The Red Cross in War

Alcock, who in time of peace is matron of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, is in charge and had all in perfect readiness for them. Curiously enough rheumatism was the most frequent cause of their suffering, though there were several who had received grave injuries through pieces of shrapnel. But of sword and bullet wounds there were none, proving once more that war nursing means the medical knowledge that can deal with enteric fever and lung troubles as much as the dressing of wounds and shattered limbs. Many of the men from the South of England were sent to Brighton, and after a few days in the hospital there, passed the early days of their convalescence on the sea front. The first arrivals of Midland extraction found themselves at Birmingham.

After Mons and Cambrai a large party of about 300 wounded men came to the

Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich. The Eltham branch of the Red Cross Society had made excellent arrangements for the reception of this and the subsequent arrivals at Well Hall Station, where there was beef tea, milk and other things welcome after a fatiguing journey, in waiting. Most of these early comers had injuries to the head or legs, but happily, with a few exceptions, the wounds were not serious. Pursuing the general system, as soon as it was safe to send them away, they went to complete their convalescence in homes in their own districts and among their own friends.

Others from Mons were brought to St. Thomas's Hospital, where again the arrangements were extraordinarily good. Almost immediately on their arrival they were visited by the King and Queen, and the latter, as the matron, Miss Lloyd

144 The Red Cross in War

Still, was mentioning some of the work that had been done, said, "I little thought on my visit here in March that the next time I came would be on so sad a mission." Some of the most curious of the casualties found their nursing here. There was that case of peculiarly hard luck of a soldier who took advantage of a halt to remove one of his boots. Hardly had he got it off than a German attack developed, and in the skirmish his boot was lost. For the subsequent three days he did his best, marching with one foot properly shod and the other practically bare, but at the end of that time he had to be sent home as an invalid.

A tale of disappointment told to the King by another man had reference to a section who missed their dinner. The vehicle carrying the food had just arrived when the Germans came on. The attack

having been repulsed and the enemy driven back, the British were returning, no doubt feeling that a meal had been earned, when a German shell struck the wagon and blew it and the dinner to pieces. The soldiers had to console themselves as best they could with a biscuit apiece.

A pretty human incident marked this early morning arrival. One of the soldiers, who limped into the entrance hall with the assistance of a couple of young students, turned to one of the doctors, asking, "Is this St. Thomas's Hospital?" and, being answered in the affirmative, said, "I've got a sister who is a nurse here." The young woman in question, one of the wardmaids, was promptly awakened, and there was a very happy reunion between brother and sister. There have since been many such glad meetings between the men and their immediate relatives and friends.

146 The Red Cross in War

It is a long record indeed that might be compiled from the stories that have come from the hospital wards. With the skill and good treatment, the generous fare and the sense of quiet after the weary days of long marches and exposure to torrents of lead from the machine guns or the unceasing shell fire have wrought wonders of rapid recovery. Cases for the physicians of pneumonia and rheumatism there have been in somewhat large proportion, but of enteric fever—that scourge in South Africa, very little has been heard as yet, though it is feared that it may appear later.

The proportion of wounded officers has been high, for all accounts agree how gallantly they led the men, and how fully they bore their part in the fighting at close quarters that so often occurred. A block with accommodation for about twelve beds is set apart for officers at the Alexandra

Hospital, Millbank, and several were taken there on the arrival of the first parties from the fighting line. At Netley and the other military hospitals there are also quarters for officers.

Private generosity has, however, supplemented the official resources to a very valuable extent. The Red Cross has floated over a number of houses that have been devoted to this purpose, relieving the strain upon the strictly military establishments, and affording all the comfort and resources that are only to be found in the best ordered and most luxurious of nursing homes.

In this connection there is one name that must always stand out. It is that of Sister Agnes (Miss Keyser), who, not only in time of war, but in the time of peace, has maintained at 9, Grosvenor Gardens the King Edward VII. Hospital.

148 The Red Cross in War

In the black days after Colenso and Spion Kop, when wounded officers and men were coming home by hundreds, she equipped her house on the lines of the most perfect of nursing homes. She entered into the whole spirit of the then Army Nursing Service ; the War Office gladly recognized and accepted her valuable help ; her own physicians and surgeons could command the collaboration of all the most eminent specialists.

His late Majesty showed in many ways his appreciation of her unique assistance, all rendered so quietly. The decoration of the Royal Red Cross was conferred upon her, and the right to call her home by the name it bears was granted as a special mark of the royal approval. In the last decade or so, scores—hundreds rather—of officers who may have been invalided home ; who have been compelled to undergo

serious operations; who have been the victims of severe accidents, have found here the kindest care and attention.

So highly has her excellent work commended itself that she was consulted on all hands by those desirous of rendering help by equipping their houses for the same purpose. Her neighbour, Lady Maxwell, placed the house next door at her disposal and she was thus able to extend her accommodation in the most convenient way. To King Edward's Hospital were brought some of the most serious cases after Mons and Compiègne, one of the victims of the fighting round the latter being General Scott Kerr.

The Hon. Mrs. Rupert Beckett, in Grosvenor Square, and Mrs. Claude Watney, in Hill Street, both devoted their houses to this use, equipping them with the latest and most scientific appointments. Another

150 The Red Cross in War

very fine house given up to the same work of mercy was that of Mr. Pandelli Ralli in Belgrave Square, and to this Captain Grenfell, who had borne so daring a part in the magnificent charge of the 9th Lancers in the fierce fighting at Compiègne, was taken.

From Jeanne Lady Coats, Princess Henry of Battenberg accepted a small, but very perfect hospital, also in Hill Street, at which some of the early arrivals were received.

“ R.R.C.”

“ FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY ”

THE nurses' decoration is the Royal Red Cross. In its roll you may read the whole story of the fine service that the Army and the Navy nurses have rendered since the Crimea. Even the “ Little Wars ”—how small they seem beside this War of Civilization against Military Despotism!—of the North Western frontier, of West Africa, of the Abor expedition, are reflected in it. Yet with our curious reticence over the deeds that show the essentially great qualities of English men and women we say nothing about the devotion, the heroism, the patience that lies behind the right of the

152 The Red Cross in War

woman to add the letters " R.R.C." after her name.

In fact, it is only by favour that you may see the plain, red-bound book, kept at the War Office, in which is the bare record and date when the Sovereign conferred the distinction. A line in the *Gazette* states that it has been given, and perhaps a brief statement as to the work done may appear in the Court Circular when the King holds the Investiture at which it is bestowed. The present war is going to make big additions to the roll.

It will be into honourable company that they come. The Queen herself wears it, as does Queen Alexandra, for a special clause in the original statutes states that it is to be worn by the Queen regent or consort, the Queen Dowager, and any foreign queens or princesses to whom the Sovereign may see fit to give it.

Queen Victoria, among her many happy inspirations, never conceived anything more lofty than when, in 1883, she called into being this decoration on St. George's Day, thus associating woman's noblest form of service with England's patron saint of all chivalry and courage. The Cross itself is of crimson enamel showing an edge of gold, and having on the three upper arms the words, “ Faith, Hope, Charity,” while the fourth bears the date of the foundation. In the centre is the effigy of the reigning Sovereign.

In the original statutes it was laid down that

“ It shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors to confer the Decoration upon our Nursing Sisters, or other persons engaged in nursing duties, whether subjects or foreign persons who may be recommended to

154 The Red Cross in War

our notice by the Secretary of State for War, or as the case may be, by the First Lord of the Admiralty through the said Secretary of State, for special devotion and competency which they have displayed in their nursing duties with the Army in the Field or in the Naval and Military Hospitals."

The honour was made retrospective and was given to Miss Florence Nightingale, and in 1897 considerable pains were taken to discover the survivors who had nursed with her, in order to bestow it on them. The last of these—Sister Mary Stanislaus—passed away only last year. Several who were in the first Egyptian campaign received it, and specially notable among them was Miss J. A. Gray, whose record of thirty-two years of Army nursing when she retired, saw her in the proud position of wearing as many war medals as a veteran

campaigner, for in addition to those of South Africa she had that of the Nile in 1885 and West Africa in 1896. Another who won the distinction under specially interesting circumstances was Miss Isabella Smith, who nursed the invalids and wounded of Admiral Sir Henry Rawson's expedition to finish the atrocious barbarities of Benin.

Not a few among those who are now tending the wounded are already wearers of the Cross, so eloquent in its simple significance. The matron of the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Miss Martin, has it, Miss Nixon, at Woolwich, wears it, as do Miss Smith at Aldershot, Miss Tulloh at Hounslow, Miss Stewart at Dover, and Miss Wilson at Cosham, and with them all it bespeaks the fine war service that they rendered in South Africa.

Theoretically, the Army nurse does not come within the zone of danger; in

156 The Red Cross in War

practice, she occasionally does. In South Africa she was there not once but many times, as in the instances of firing upon hospital trains that occurred. Sister Mary Grenfell was in one of these when it was partially wrecked by a shell, and received injuries. At Ladysmith, where Sister A. G. Dowse was matron, the hospital was constantly in danger, and all will recall the accounts of the calm courage that was displayed by the Roman Catholic sisters who tended the sick and wounded during the siege of Mafeking, and who admitted on their return that they had almost grown accustomed to the shells flying over the town.

There is the strongest evidence that the enemy has fired upon the Red Cross in France and Belgium, but so far no English nurse is known to have been wounded. A sensational story set afloat to the effect

that four nurses had been brought into the Herbert Hospital with the first arrivals from the front, suffering from wounds, turned out on examination to show that two of the ladies were ill, while one had had her head badly burnt through the upsetting of a lamp, which the fourth had pluckily extinguished, receiving some nasty burns herself.

The Royal Red Cross is, however, no nurses' V.C. awarded for a single act of conspicuous heroism. Rather does it stand for the patient and laborious work done quietly in the hospital ward, seen by none save the few who form that little world apart, but made tangible in the men restored to health and vigour and the efficient example to, and teaching of, the orderlies. It has never been earned easily or cheaply, and fewer errors have been made perhaps in its bestowal than in regard to any other

158 The Red Cross in War

decoration. Just because it is a real mark of distinction, significant of faithful effort, it commands respect, and its possessors are not that type of woman who wants to be conspicuous and talked about. It conveys no suggestion of power or influence or great wealth. Since its foundation, it has been awarded to less than 250 women all told—a small company indeed among the

“ Many honourable women
Such as bade us turn again when we were like to
die.”

And it is good that it should be so. Even among those now in field or base camp, in hospital ship or the wards, wherein the sick and wounded are being cared for, there must be some who exceed their colleagues in the tenderness, the skill, the devotion that they bring to their sacredly womanly task. To bestow the decoration on them

bespeaks their high ideals brought into the service of the stricken, and pursued in the truest spirit of the words that appear with such deep significance upon the cross itself.

HOW WOMEN WORKED

"When greater perils men environ,
Then Women show a front of iron ;
And, gentle in their manner, they
Do bold things in a quiet way."

THOMAS DUNN ENGLISH.

IN the first fortnight or so after the declaration of war there was a certain amount of feminine fluster. It took various forms, as that particularly reprehensible and economically dangerous panic-rush to hoard provisions. It started working parties on the spur of the moment, without giving a thought to the hardship inflicted on women whose means of livelihood was their needle. It enrolled itself in ambulance and first-aid classes, and spent hours in studying manuals on the functions of the heart and lungs, or what to do for a patient

who has just undergone an amputation. It dismissed servants in an unknown dread of the cost of their maintenance. It found much relief and much happiness in forming societies and corps and associations for all sorts of enterprises.

Happily the Queen brought her sound practical sense to bear in two directions, with excellent and steadying effect. One of these was the intimation that it would be far better, for industrial reasons, for those who were supporting her appeal for clothing to buy good ready-made shirts, vests, pyjamas and the rest, or else to purchase the material and pay the dressmakers and other needlewomen to make them up. The fact was realized that flannel shirts, socks, and Cardigan jackets are a Government issue for soldiers ; flannel vests, socks, and jerseys for sailors ; pyjama suits, serge gowns for military hospitals ; underclothing,

162 The Red Cross in War

flannel gowns, and flannel waistcoats for naval hospitals. The Queen let it be known that she was most anxious that work done for the Needlework Guild should not have a harmful effect on the employment of men, women, and girls in the trades concerned, and therefore desirous that the workers of the Guild should devote themselves to the making of garments other than those which would, in the ordinary course, be bought by the War Office and Admiralty. All kinds of garments would be needed for distribution in the winter, and amateur workers were advised to devote themselves to the making of little special comforts and items that did not enter largely into commercial production.

It was a thoroughly practical committee, moreover, that the Queen formed. Her Majesty would not herself accept its presidency, but preferred simple membership,

while Princess Mary also joined it; Lady Ampthill was in the chair, and among the members were Lady Bertha Dawkins, Mrs. Asquith, Mrs. Lewis Harcourt, Mrs. McKenna, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Marchioness of Salisbury, and several more. A couple of very informal meetings at which both the Queen and Princess Mary were present sufficed for all the general arrangements, the Press gave full publicity to all her Majesty's wishes, and up and down the land women became members of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild by the obvious and simple means of working for it.

The King placed the whole of the stately Levee suite of rooms at St. James's Palace at the disposal of the committee. Experience of many years of the best methods of sorting and classifying huge masses of garments has been gained by her Majesty

164 The Red Cross in War

and the ladies of the Royal Household in dealing with the contributions—amounting to nearly 70,000 garments a year—of the London Needlework Guild, of which the Queen has long been president, and the business-like methods adopted for that proved entirely successful. The ever-useful Boy Scout was a valuable assistant, and as the ladies unpacked the sacks, the bales, and the individual contributions sent in by parcel post, their contents were examined, checked, and consigned to the orderly stacks that began to rise on the ground floor and in every available corner.

Flannel shirts, nightshirts and socks were primarily demanded. They poured in by thousands. Now, shirts are not the form of needlecraft in which the lady amateurs usually excel, and it is to be feared that with slender knowledge of cutting out, some of the earlier efforts bear only a

distant relation to the garment to which the average man is accustomed. Wiser women who recognized their limitations in this direction bought good quality flannel, for which the demand soon became unprecedented, and found out the skilled needlewomen whose work had fallen off, paying them the full rates to make them up. Now and again a touching little proof of the desire of all women to do something in the emergency was shown, as in the case of a bedridden girl whose only craft was fine knitting, by which she earned an occasional shilling or two to go into a very modest family treasury. She begged to be allowed to give her work free to make some delicately soft bootikins for the babies of one of two at the front.

Gradually the scope of the Queen's appeal broadened. That the winter will see poverty and distress in many directions is

166 The Red Cross in War

certain. Clothing for women, children, and infants was asked for and has been poured into St. James's Palace with unstinting liberality. Primarily the Red Cross Society and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association were to be the channels of distribution, but the first-named has had much sent direct to it, and probably many other applications will be considered, when the vast labour of allocation of the thousands of garments has to be faced. In the counties, the local Presidents of the Needlework Guilds have also received large gifts, and these as a general rule will go to the County Association which is concerned with its own Territorial battalions.

Even more interesting from the broadly political and economic point of view was the Queen's act in calling together the Central Committee for Women's Work. Her Majesty's nominees to this were the

Marchioness of Crewe, Lady Middleton, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, and several other ladies, but shortly after its formation it was deemed advisable to merge this into a larger body, appointed under the Local Government Board and Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P. But the Queen maintained her personal concern over the whole, and it is a fact, the significance of which will not be overlooked, that the invitations addressed to ladies most closely in touch with labour movements were issued from Buckingham Palace.

Among those who were thus asked to help was Miss Mary McArthur, who, as Secretary of the Women's Trades Union Association, has the fullest means of knowing what is really needed in the dislocated state of the labour market. She is a trusted leader of her sex in all matters of work and wages, soundly practical, but

168 The Red Cross in War

withal, deeply sympathetic towards hardship or suffering in any form, and her presence on the Committee was at once a guarantee that the best industrial interests of women would be kept to the fore. Another was Dr. Marion Phillips, whose knowledge of the working woman and her wants has been gathered from the experience of much kindly labour on their behalf. Miss Margaret Bondfield and Mrs. Gasson are also prominent trade unionists, while Miss Susan Laurence, of the Education Committee of the London County Council, brought to it the results of her association with the school teachers. Miss Nettie Adler, of the London County Council, may be trusted to consider especially the large volume contributed to labour in East London by Jewish women, and the Hon. Lily Montague is an expert authority on working girls' clubs, through which are

focussed the aims and aspirations, the difficulties and cares of thousands of the younger generation of toilers.

Such a committee has been primarily valuable in its advisory capacity. Another step taken by the Queen strengthened it in the direction of enabling it to provide work itself. Every far-seeing woman realized that the war would bring about entirely changed conditions in industry to which women, as well as men, would have perforce to adapt themselves. With all manufactures in Germany paralyzed for want of the raw materials ; with so vast a ratio of her men literally " broken in the war " and lost limbs and injuries that surely incapacitate them for the rest of their lives, to say nothing of the grim price that has been paid in life itself ; with her mercantile marine swept off the seas, and markets lost in America, Asia, China,

170 The Red Cross in War

Africa, there must come accessions of trade to this country, the extent of which we but dimly perceive at present.

To bridge that interval before the readjustment to the newer activities comes about, employment must be found for large classes of women. Hence the Queen's Work for Women Fund. No small number of those who fell into the direst want on account of reduced demands in the way of dress, know no art save that of the needle. For such the opening of work-rooms seemed the best means of help, and twelve of these were established early in Westminster, Battersea, Fulham, St. Pancras, Deptford, Greenwich, Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Hackney, Southwark, and Stoke Newington. The sternest economist might perhaps be critical, and point out the possible dangers of using the large offerings of charity in competition with the

ordinary course of trade. But though expressed here and there, the objection was not maintained. The circumstances are exceptional ; the poor women must either find a call for their labour, or starve.

Whenever help could be afforded, as by training some of the younger women for the vocations in which there was a shortage of skilled workers, it was done, and with the generally sensible and level headed women at the work-rooms, individual cases could be helped according to their particular circumstances. How well, too, the chief authorities on women's labour were represented may be judged from the names of some who assisted, as Miss Anderson, Principal Lady Inspector of Factories, Miss Mona Wilson, of the Insurance Commission, Miss Clapham at the head of the Women's Branch of the Labour Exchanges, and Miss Durham, the chief organizer of

172 The Red Cross in War

technical education to the London County Council; while Sir George Askwith brought his unrivalled knowledge of trade organization to the help of the ladies. From the outset the fund received generous support, and in its first weeks the sum of £60,000 was contributed.

Yet another effort was launched by her Majesty to meet a want that Lord Kitchener had expressed. Officially, the War Office has always been careful to state that everything necessary for the soldiers in the field is provided for them. In working practice, however, it soon appeared that there was plenty of room for voluntary assistance. This proved to be the case especially as regards socks, for the long marches and constant wear rubbed them out rapidly, and far greater numbers were wanted than are provided for by the regulations.

Accordingly, the Queen, subscribing herself £100 and the King £200 for the purchase of wool and the payment of women to knit them, asked the women of the Empire to send her 300,000 pairs, and a like number of knitted or woven belts for the lower part of the body. Lady Isobel Gathorne Hardy and Lady Bland Sutton undertook the labours of receiving and classifying the gifts, rooms at Devonshire House being placed at the Queen's disposal for the work. The response met all expectations, and great additional comforts were thus afforded to the men, at a minimum of trouble or delay in collecting and sending the gifts.

In another class, the general upheaval threw some thousands out of work, and that was with the daily increasing army of girl clerks, shorthand writers and typists. Those of better education and status were

174 The Red Cross in War

to some extent called in to take the place of men who had volunteered for the new army or the Territorial battalions, but merely in a limited degree. Only the strongest firms with the staunchest patriotism behind them could keep their staffs at the full business level, and in very many—probably most—when the young man went away, there was the promise of his berth when he returned, which in the meantime remained empty.

But among the wonders of the war which showed the true national spirit of unity was the sudden cessation of all active or violent Suffragist propaganda. Before the common danger Suffragist and Anti-Suffragist sank all differences of opinion, and in their place came the formation of the Women's Emergency Corps, which has helped in the most diverse directions. It found capable women to take charge of

farms and gardens in the place of the men called away ; it revealed the fact that numbers of women were as competent to drive motor cars and do ordinary running repairs as the average chauffeur ; it organized the staff of cooks who catered for the poorer Belgian refugees ; it collected information as to where odd jobs and temporary help might be wanted and put the right women into touch with them, co-ordinating small professional organizations with wider interests, doing all with a quiet business-like thoroughness that was significant of the attitude of the women of to-day. Even for the little typist girl there was something to be found now and again, though her frequent want of any education beyond the merely superficial power of working her machine made her something of a problem, and the corps certainly fulfilled a useful purpose in many ways.

176 The Red Cross in War

Very good counsel, too, was given by the Duchess of Albany, who urged all "to work, to be quiet, to be strong," saying :

"This is not a time for us to get excited, or to put forward wild schemes. We must learn to be heroic, to be calm and of good courage, and to remain in the place where God has put us, and do our duty there. It is of no use to fly out to the front unless you know exactly that you are very useful. Volunteers who are not chosen by the authorities are not, I am afraid, of much use. I know of a good many wars that I have had to do with, and I know of the work that has been done. I have heard a good deal of criticism, friendly and otherwise, and it is with that knowledge that I am speaking. I would therefore suggest that we all pull ourselves together to work our

hardest, and keep cool, so that we do not hinder but help our men."

The better sense of proportion began to assert itself with the characteristic commonsense of English women. They began to see that they could help the family of a reservist doing his duty without the formalities of letters to secretaries and cards to be filled up. There was useful, but not showy, not picturesque work, calling for becoming uniforms, that they could do on children's care committees. Instances came to hand of ladies with rather more than elementary knowledge of home nursing volunteering to look after the health of the children in elementary schools, and liberating the fully trained nurse thus employed to go into the wards of an ordinary hospital, where the calls of Territorial and Reserve requirements were causing a shortage.

178 The Red Cross in War

A very fine aspect of the women's work in the war is that which dealt with the unhappy Belgian refugees. Among those who organized the heavy undertaking were the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Lady Lugard, Viscountess Gladstone, and many more. The Catholic Women's League undertook the care of 1,000 poor people, and promptly and efficiently were the many offers of practical help from those who felt that nothing they could do would ever repay the sacrifices and heroism of the gallant little land.

In a large furniture storage warehouse near Victoria some 400 were received, a staff of trained nurses being attached to it. At the general offices, the kindest offers of aid poured in, and homes for as long as might be needed were promised on all hands. None were forgotten. Aged men and women would find a welcome in some

directions ; girls who would be in danger without proper care could be given this by gentle and sympathetic ladies ; all sorts of homes were forthcoming for the children ; the needs of mothers and infants appealed specially to many. The ladies of Hampton Court and the district provided a maternity home for any in their hour of direst need who would otherwise be unfriended. From the Women's Emergency Corps which sought to utilize and direct the energies of all possessed of any sort of knowledge, came a band of quick, intelligent workers as interpreters who met the unhappy people at the stations and gave all help with womanly tact.

Other ladies undertook to provide a given number of meals daily. As much money as could be afforded was spent on paid labour, thus supporting other humble homes. An appeal for the pieces of bread,

180 The Red Cross in War

the trimmings of meat, the cold vegetables so often wasted in the kitchens of the wealthier members of the community brought much assistance in this form. Women had, in fact, every reason to feel proud of the part that they played in what might be called an act of international gratitude.

A work of far extending ramifications which met the strain thrown upon it has been that of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. Its machinery was perfected during the South African War, and with very little adaptation could all be set in motion again. Though here and there the incompetent amateur helper was tactless and unsympathetic, the work done has been very useful, and the War Office and the Admiralty made considerable use of the organization in helping the wives and children, while from its own funds it

was able, when necessary, to supplement the separation allowances by further grants.

Medical women, through the war, have rendered indirect service that has not had, perhaps, the recognition it deserves. Hundreds of physicians and surgeons have been called upon to take up their duties, occupying their full time at the Territorial General Hospitals, at the hospitals provided by private enterprise, or with Red Cross Hospitals in France or Belgium. Their departure has left gaps in the great net-work of general practice and public health throughout the country, which, but for the readiness of the women qualified to fill them, must have had grievous effect upon the national well-being.

A sub-committee of the Association of Registered Medical Women was formed to collect information on the subject. One

182 The Red Cross in War

lady was found to be doing the medical work of an important South Coast asylum, another was an acting officer of health, the extremely important position of clinical pathologist at a large general hospital in Yorkshire was being filled by another lady, and in several instances women doctors were anæsthetists. At one important hospital a fully qualified lady was acting as senior House Surgeon. The Army authorities have in several cases gladly availed themselves of the offers of medical women, to be responsible for the maternity work among soldiers' wives, and have also gratefully accepted the offer of a medical woman to arrange for the massage where this treatment might be desirable.

Even more direct was the help of the medical women in offering to equip and manage a hospital in Paris. It cannot be said that they received much official

encouragement here, for the whole War Office attitude is—not unnaturally as many agree—opposed to the presence of women anywhere near the seat of hostilities. Still, the Russian Army service has made use of medical women in the field, and the French Government did not decline their offer, assigning them indeed a place in connection with a base hospital in a large hotel in the Champs Elysées. The party consisted of Dr. Flora Murray, Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson (daughter of that pioneer in the profession, Dr. Garrett-Anderson), and four other medical women. They took eight nurses and seven orderlies, four of the latter being men. A great feature of their equipment was the very large supply that they took out of bandages, dressings, morphia, chloroform, invalid foods and other medical comforts. In Paris their work has been in association with the

184 The Red Cross in War

Union des Femmes de France, whose badge they assumed.

Incidentally, it is suggested by the London School of Medicine, in view of the large calls that have been made for fully qualified women doctors, thus demonstrated, that the effects of the war will be felt in the profession for the next decade. So many young men have left their medical studies to go to the front, and have interrupted post graduate courses to go to see something of what war service in surgery is, that there will be a certain dislocation in many directions. It is urged therefore that when women have proved themselves so useful as they are now doing, they will find a field of work open to them wider than any that they have yet known. Appointments in relation to school clinics and public health will be numerous, while the Women's Medical Service of India is likely

to increase. Hence, well educated young women might well turn their attention at the present time to entering the profession, as affording them an honorable and useful career upon which they would enter at a time when a check has been placed upon its normal reinforcement by men. The doors by which it can be entered are more numerous than they were a few years ago, and there are scholarships and bursaries to be won by those who fear the somewhat heavy expense of the course of training.

Nor must be forgotten the vast amount of voluntary service that women have rendered without any sort of organization. Up and down the country in their own immediate circles they have known of a poor family where the husband and father has been called out with the Reserves, or has found his country's call irresistible. They have helped the mother, it may be, in

186 The Red Cross in War

woman's worst trial, and there are brave little stories that might be told of rural midwives who have bidden their patients not to trouble about immediate payment of fees, but to wait till the brighter days come. The wives of the clergy and the ministers of the Free Churches have known where need lay, the women of some independent means have started ambulance and first-aid classes and taught cooking, telling their poorer neighbours how valuable some elementary knowledge of nursing and invalid dietary will be as the menfolk come home, either as convalescents, or as the heroes needing real rest and recuperation, before they go back to their ordinary vocations.

There have been women with some knowledge of nursing who have gone to care committees and schools for mothers, to take the routine work done by their

usual nurses, thereby setting free these fully trained women to go back to their old hospitals and fill the blank caused by the calling out of an Army or Navy Reserve nurse. Others have devoted an hour or two daily to reading the papers to elderly folk whose grandsons are in the fighting line, and who are keenly interested to know how things are going. Not a few have mastered the intricacies of how to secure for the wives not "on the strength" the pay and separation allowances due to them—problems that in the early weeks of the war caused real hardship and distress, due to the fact that not one in a thousand knew of the existence of Officers of Records at the headquarters and depôts, to whom claims and marriage certificates had first to be forwarded. The more educated woman of to-day has answered the question "Am I my sister's keeper?" with

188 The Red Cross in War

an emphatic "Yes," and has acted accordingly.

Nor is her work done yet. The most optimistic are realizing now that the machinery for the care of the wounded has been set in full working order, and the care of wives, children, aged dependents, has been amply considered, that the winter lies before us, and that invariably brings its own volume of distress apart from any shadow of war. The newly awakened sense of responsibility is facing that. Up and down the country they are facing their own local problems of relief, helping in the many ways that tactfulness and kindness can suggest. The ambulance and cookery classes assume new significance when the knowledge of how to adjust the bandaging, still desirable after the shattered limb has nearly recovered, or nourishing food in the latter stages of convalescence,

may be wanted for the hero of the family. The practice acquired in the sewing classes will bear fruit in greater care of clothes, and in more independency of the cheap ready-made garment.

Hitherto the ultimate effect of war has been a purifying one—the lifting of a nation to higher issues of justice, of duty, of industry. The years that followed the Napoleonic struggles saw the first Reform Bill in politics and the opening of that great period of literature and scientific achievement that marked the earlier Victorian days; the years that followed upon Sedan and Metz saw France recovering from the shock that sent her reeling, to reorganize her whole constitution, and to become a stronger and more thoughtful people. Our enemy now is throwing away the fruits she had gathered in 1870, to grasp at things beyond her reach.

190 The Red Cross in War

Women can be proud to-day of the share that is theirs in this war for national freedom, and the rights of the peoples to pursue the more domestic paths unfettered by the crushing burdens of militarism. Peace they are praying for, but it must be the honourable peace that will alone purchase the liberty of the future. To help to win that peace, they place at the Empire's service all that self sacrifice, all that devoted duty, all that disciplined endurance, which in the trained nurse is symbolized in the Red Cross of Geneva.

1